

September 28, 1992 LB 20

that Medicaid budget continues to grow, we have to separate the want to's from the have to's, and at least in the federal government's point of view there is a long list of have to's, whether we like it or not, that we really have no choice over. There is a very small list of want to's that we do have some choice over. Given the fact that this state arguably has one of, if not the most generous payment to individuals in this area, and we should probably be lauded for being that caring and that giving, the fact is can you afford to do that. And I guess I...Senator Crosby and Senator Chambers have certainly laid out that they think it's certainly a cruel, unwise, improper thing to do to eliminate this payment. You know, I guess...

SENATOR CONWAY: One minute.

SENATOR MOORE: ...I can't totally argue with that. But the fact is this is one of the very, very few options that this state has to decrease the cost of Medicaid. I think it's one that we ought to exercise because there is so little that we can do. And if there was no other program out there that would be one thing. There are some programs there that certainly give some help to these individuals. Obviously, an overall addressing the cost of health care is something that we'll do in the long-term, but right now, today, this special session, and actually the next twelve months there is very little that we can do, LB 20 is one of those things, and I certainly encourage the body to adopt Senator Lindsay's amendment and eventually pass LB 20.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Crosby, you're next.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I heard everything you said, Senator Moore, and I have to agree with you. I know we have a fiscal problem, but I say again we're taking it out on the people who cannot afford, who can afford it least to lose this money. We were talking about tuition for the young men and women in the National Guard, earlier. A lot of these women in Nebraska who are on ADC are trying to finish their education, they're working very diligently at it. And for us to discourage them now by taking these payments away, I think, is not the right thing to do. I know that the Governor and his staff looked very carefully at everything to try to find the things that they could cut, but my feeling about that, on this particular issue is, either the Governor's listening to all