

September 30, 1992 LB 1

I think the Legislature is getting smarter and more and more curious about this issue, and rightly so. So, with that, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time that has been allotted to this, this issue. And I would respectfully withdraw the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: It is withdrawn.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment is by Senator Haberman. Senator Haberman has made a note to withdraw the amendment as well.

SPEAKER BAACK: It is withdrawn.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Schellpeper would move to amend the bill.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, I passed out a sheet this morning that explains some of the things that are in LB 1 and some of the things that the Department of Social Service is wanting to do. And this amendment basically will put everything status quo the way it is right now. It does not...does not change anything as far as increasing but everything stays right where it is right now. There's going to be some hearings starting October 15th on the health care in Nebraska. And the Social Service has agreed to work with the nursing homes, the hospitals, all basic health care, and, in turn, the health care people are also willing to take some cuts. They are willing to work with Social Service to explain where they can make some cuts, where they think they should be made and how they should be made. Currently, in LB 1, there will be a 300 percent SSI use. Well, basically, what that says is that Medicaid will only pay \$1,266 for a Medicaid patient in a nursing home. And the current cost is about a little over \$2,000. So the difference then has to be made up, basically, with the private pay or the nursing homes have to stand that difference. And rather than do that, they would like to work with the Department of Social Service, try to work something out so that they can cut the cost and save some state tax dollars. So what I passed out is actually what we're trying to do. Now, the only difference from what I passed out is if you look at the sheet, number one that implements psychiatric and chemical day treatment rate reductions is not in the amendment. We thought