

September 30, 1992 LB 1

it was in there but this morning after checking we find out that it is not in there. And that would be an additional, about \$160,000. Now, currently, the Department of Social Service can make all these reductions. They don't really need the authority of the Legislature, but they have agreed not to make these reductions until they have the hearings. They have agreed to that everything stay just like it is at the present time until after the hearings. Now, after the hearings, if the Legislature, is not happy with what happens, then next session we can come back in and change some programs, change the programs around. But all this amendment does, basically, then is keeps everything status quo, right where it is right now. Nothing changes until after all these hearings are completed and then Mary Dean Harvey will make these decisions. I know some people say, well, it gives her a lot of authority. Well, she has that authority right now. We're not giving her any more authority than what she has right now. All we're doing, basically, is just keeping it as is until these health care associations and groups can make their pitch how they want to cut the cost. So I would be glad to answer any questions that you might have, but it's basically status quo just like we are right now. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schellpeper. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I rise to support the Schellpeper amendment. I suspect that the provisions in LB 1 addressing...and I'm going to be talking just a little bit about nursing homes, were well intended but the result had we...if we would adopt LB 1, as currently worded without the Schellpeper amendment, would be probably a much greater budget exposure several years from now than what we could anticipate under another set of circumstances. I passed out this morning a handout that shows the forms that must be maintained for each resident of a nursing home in their personal file. I know that most of you are aware of the burden of bureaucracy that we place upon all institutions of government, but in the event that there are some among you who are not aware of the extreme that we have gotten to, I would suggest to you that we be reminded that each of these forms, the 51 that are listed by my nursing home administrator, each entry on those forms cost dollars in health care. The intent of this is to indicate to you that the ongoing talks and the hearing that's upcoming between the Nebraska Health Care Association and the