

detection will mean lower costs down the line for the kind of coverage and treatment that will be needed to treat those cases in which breast cancer is found. Hopefully they won't be as radical or as expensive or as intrusive as the treatments that occur when you have late detection of breast cancer, and I support the advancement of LB 68.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Madam President, members of the body. Thank you, Senator Landis, for that support. I think I will take this time to explain the bill so that everybody has a clear understanding, and then if I have more time I'll go ahead and give more of the rationale for its passage. But what the bill basically does is provides a baseline mammogram for women between the ages of 35 and 40 years of age. Then after the years of...age of 40, there is a mammogram provided every other year until the age of 50, at which time it becomes an every year event. And there are good, clear reasons for this kind of distribution because we know that a great majority of those who actually contract breast cancer are over the age of 50. This is a standard that's been used in a number of states and recommended by a number of groups. I should say that this doesn't prevent, this bill doesn't prevent the application of deductible or copayment provisions, and it does not again cover diagnostic mammography. Most diagnostic mammography is already covered by insurance, or in a lot of cases it is. But the screening which can help find this cancer early is not provided in many instances, and that's the purpose of the bill. I would like to call your attention to several things that Senator Stuhr mentioned. Regarding the charts on your desk, I don't know if you've had a chance to take a look at it, but if you will look at the table, county by county incidence of breast cancer, you will find some...some counties have a very high rate, higher than the average, Brown County, for instance, 126 women out of every 100,000; Douglas County, 113 out of 100,000; Keya Paha County, 130 out of every 100,000; Kimball, 122 out of every 100,000; Pierce, 128; Perkins, 151, probably the highest rate of cancer...breast cancer in Nebraska. But you can find your own county. Thurston is also quite high, as is Valley, Webster and so forth. Breast cancer was diagnosed in 5,190 Nebraska women in 1988 to 1992, during that same period 1,454 Nebraska women died. It is the number one cause of deaths for women in the state and nationally as well. As Senator Stuhr mentioned, mortality can be reduced by at least a third, at least a third,