

so that means that over probably four to five hundred of those women that died in Nebraska needn't have died. Also, one of the reasons, I think, that Nebraska is a good target for this program is because consistently, consistently over the years Nebraska has been either 49th or 50th in the numbers of women who are actually getting mammograms. And we hope by education and by providing these health benefits that we can get out of that bottom of the heap category. We also know that probably one of the reasons Nebraska has a higher maybe incidence is because we have an older population and, as mentioned before, often times that's the age group that is most susceptible. One other thing that I would like to mention is that we've talked a lot about...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...cost effectiveness, and one U.S. study claims that a 22,000 per life year was saved from screening women age 55 to 65. Another study claims rates as high as 135,000 per life years saved among women 40 to 49 years. Overall results of studies conducted in the U.S. and other countries show that the cost effectiveness of screening for breast cancer compares favorably with other health care benefits. One...mild hypertension, for example, cost effectiveness studies yield a cost of 32,600 per life year saved. And with that, I would simply urge the advancement of LB 68.

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

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. I'm an individual who has previously opposed legislation like LB 68. I preferred instead to address the problem of mammography in the State of Nebraska through the public health program established through legislation proposed by Senator Schimek. It was my thought that another mandate on insurance would not, in fact, properly address the problem and that the better course of action was to target low income women and provide mammography through that. Keep in mind that when you require mammography or insurance policies that you have an at-risk exemption on over 40 percent of health insurance policies in the State of Nebraska. So we only affect around 50 percent or so of the health insurance policies that are issued in the State of Nebraska. And those that don't have insurance are also not covered. However, I have had a change of