

have individuals, even with all the money in the world, that can't get health insurance. But, yeah, the idea is to make it affordable, that they can afford to get it and that's a key.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you. That's what I thought and, as I read that, it is really a, as I see it, a recommendation to the Governor. It certainly doesn't bind the Governor or bind anyone to develop a plan that is affordable to all Nebraskans. It just states it as a goal and, for that reason, I do not see that it is harmful to the bill and I see no reason to adopt the Witek amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Before going on to the next speaker, I'd like to call the Legislature's attention to the fact that we do have a doctor of the day today. It is Dr. Jay Matzke from Omaha. He is the guest of Senator Pedersen. He's also Senator Matzke's son, and he is under the north balcony. Would you please welcome Dr. Matzke. Thank you. Senator Matzke, on the Witek amendment. Senator Matzke waives off. Senator Beutler, on the Witek amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I would like to give my time to Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, and I'll use a few minutes of Senator Beutler's time and then yield back to him, but in answer to Senator Witek's point, we do have a serious problem and we do not have individuals able to get health insurance in our state today. Again, the plan, when we looked through the welfare reform effort last year, actually two years ago, one of the points in the report was that it was our assumption that health care would be available to all Nebraskans and that others were studying the issue so we didn't include it in the study itself, but the task force that I was on, we all agreed that that was a key point, that it was child care and health care that were the main reasons that individuals ended up needing welfare. In fact, we heard from many individuals that said if you got us health care and you helped us with the child care, we wouldn't want to be on welfare, but because of the circumstance we have to drop whatever we've got going in terms of a job, qualify for ADC and cost you more money because we don't have the health care and the child care. So our problem in our state is actually at one point we were one of the best in the country in