

body, I, too, will part company with Senator Witek on this issue. If the committee members remember, it was my motion to strike the word "care" and insert "insurance" in that Section 14 and I would defend that by saying that health care, as we looked at it and as the nation looked at it over the last couple of years, became a potpourri of indecision and I don't think that we're able to do that ourselves at this point. But health insurance I think is doable and health insurance is necessary. I wonder what you would say if I were to introduce a piece of legislation that would say that all state employees or NSCA members could not have health insurance, because we guarantee that to them, why shouldn't our citizens have that same opportunity? I introduced two bills this year that would allow for insurance for our citizens. I think they were both killed in committee, as a matter of fact, but I, too, have...at least one comes to mind especially vividly. A young lady who has got two children, she is married, they work for a rancher out in my district. One of these children has cancer and will not live. Another one has already died from a disease that he inherited, it was genetic disease. The insurance, health insurance for those two children alone was over \$6,000 a year. These are ranch hands. They don't own a ranch, they just work for a guy that does. There's no way they can afford that. CHIP doesn't work. Something has got to give. We've got to find some way to take care of these children and this, I think, is a step in the right direction. I think that this is what Nebraskans should be doing. We should be looking at some way to find support for these people who have no other means and no way to pay for their care. I do not support the Witek amendment and I do support this particular part of the committee amendments. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Before the next speaker, I'd like to call the Legislature's attention to the north balcony. We have 38 fourth graders from Lincoln Christian School in Lincoln, Nebraska, with their teachers, and they are guests of Senator Warner. Would you please stand and be welcomed by your Legislature. Thank you for being here. Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature, it certainly appeared as though that the list of speakers, that there was going to be continual piling on Senator Witek relative to this particular amendment and so I thought I would rise to show support for the amendment, but not for maybe the same reasons that she is indicating. I'm certainly not