

April 10, 1995

LB 326, 326A, 434, 455, 524, 524A, 541, 874

CLERK: I have a quorum present, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK PRESIDING

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Stuhr would like to announce that we have 21 fourth graders here from Seward Elementary in Seward, Nebraska with their teacher. Will you all stand and be recognized, please. Welcome. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Madam President, your Committee on Enrollment and Review reports they have carefully examined engrossed LB 326 and find the same correctly engrossed; LB 326A, LB 434, LB 524, LB 524A, LB 541, LB 874, all reported engrossed. (See page 1593 of the Legislative Journal.)

Madam President, LB 455, discussed this morning. Committee amendments are pending. Senator Witek has the next amendment to the committee amendments. (Witek amendment, AM1562, appears on page 1593 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Chair recognizes Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: My next amendment...there you go, thank you. My next amendment is on the sheet that I handed out and it would strike the provisions in the committee amendment on page 6, Section 16. The language that it attempts to strike reads, "In determining the rate of reimbursement for child care the Department of Social Services shall conduct a market rate survey of the child care providers in the state. The department shall adjust the reimbursement rate for child care every second year, beginning July 1, 1997, based on the results of the study." My amendment would strike that language and keep the system that we have now. And I hope we have some discussion on what system we have now. I did have some discussion over the noon hour, very, very little with Senator Bohlke, and I hope she'll come forward and discuss this issue. And my personal reasons for putting in this amendment are my concerns with, first of all, the language of that portion. The market rate survey has to be conducted of the child care providers in the state. I think that would be an expensive proposition to survey all of the child care providers in the state and to come up with some kind of an adjustment every two years in the rate that we provide for the child care portion of stat. aid. First of all, we didn't get any fiscal note again on the costs of this provision. It seems like it would be the responsibility of at least the Chairman of Health