

talks about the need to examine. It's the possibilities of pooling. It would look at public employees. It would look at the possibility of pooling and assisting private employers and basically just gives a legislative intent on a study on this issue of pooling. I think that as I have gone around the country and gone to meetings on health care initiatives and what the states can do to deal with health care reform, among the most positive prospects out there that I've heard about have been the concepts of pooling, that bringing it together, different employers or employee situations and then through that gaining strength to get better prices on health care purchase is one of the things that states can do that is most recommended. And before we take that step I think a good analysis of it and our options is in order, that's what this amendment calls for and I would ask for adoption or the amendment and be happy to answer any questions.

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

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President and members. I rise in support of Senator Wesely's amendment to the bill before us, 837. As he mentioned, the component part of this amendment that deals with LB 279 specifically addresses that issue that would allow for the extension of the time period for two years, as he stated correctly in his opening. It really only affects one entity, that being Blue Cross and Blue Shield and it affects them because frankly, all their premium is collected within the borders of the State of Nebraska. So it is specific to that. As he stated, it advanced out of committee. Actually, if you were to pull out your consent calendar list for tomorrow, it is listed as one of those bills with the adoption of the bill as this amendment to 837 we can take one bill off consent calendar and I would urge your support of this amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Hall. Is there any further discussion of the Wesely amendment? Seeing none, Senator Wesely, do you wish to close?

SENATOR WESELY: Again, Madam President, this has two elements to it. Both are bills that were amended and advanced by the Banking Committee without opposition. I'd ask for adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. The question before you is the adoption of the Wesely amendment to LB 837.