

you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you. Senator Brashear. Senator Abboud and Pedersen, Senators Abboud and Pedersen would like to announce that there are 40 fourth graders here from Holling Heights in Omaha with their teacher. They are in the north balcony. Will you all stand and be recognized please. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Chambers, your light is next, followed by Senators Wehrbein, Wesely, and Wickersham.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, in the spirit of Senator Avery, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw this amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Brashear. Senator Wehrbein, your light is next.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam Speaker and members, this is a difficult one for me. I can't quite explain why the Appropriations Committee didn't put this in to start with. The intent was to transfer the money from the nurse incentive program, which we took out \$60,000...I shouldn't say the intent, the Governor's proposal was to do that, take the 60,000 from the nurse incentive program and put it into this program. When it came to the appropriations process, somehow, somehow, inadvertently, otherwise, none of us recall exactly, we did not put this in. I would understand the body's concern that if you were not to put this in would be appropriate, consistent to what the action has been on the last 12 or 15 hours of debate that we have had. It probably is necessary. On the other hand, I am going to vote no because I feel that it is something that even though it probably needs to be done, to be consistent with, at least my conscience, I am going to vote no. But I think the body should understand that it is something that probably is needed. It does spend an additional \$60,000 for this program across the state. It is possible that the Health Department could absorb this. I can't say that they can. I couldn't say that they couldn't, but it is an issue that is a little uncomfortable for me because somehow we have no explanation as to why we really didn't do it. My conscience says that we deliberately did not put it in, but because it is part of many, many votes that we took, I can't remember the rationale for leaving it out. It just simply wasn't put in. So let the body decide what you want to do. From my viewpoint, I understand if you don't because it is increasing spending over what we, as the