

friend, as Senator Crosby talked about, or known somebody that suffered from Parkinson's, you'll know how awful a disease it is and how much we need to do to try and stop this from occurring for others in the future. I feel very, very positive about the piece of legislation. We're still talking and working with the pharmacists about some concerns, and the physicians, but they've been very willing to work with us, and we appreciate that. I give the rest of my opening to Senator Matzke.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Matzke.

SENATOR MATZKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. The Health and Human Services Committee had quite a presentation to it by the medical researchers at Creighton University and the University of Nebraska Medical School, who have done some preliminary work in trying to analyze why the incidence of Parkinson's Disease is so great in the state of Nebraska. They don't have the information, they don't have the survey to put together the study. What they did do was they obtained records of drug prescriptions throughout the state and they found an alarming corollary between the areas where Parkinson's treatment drugs were prescribed and the center of the state where irrigation is prevalent. These were admittedly statistics that are not completely valid because they're just based on a random survey of drug prescriptions, but it does show a potential correlation between the incidence of Parkinson's Disease and the irrigated areas of the state where, of course, various agricultural chemicals are used. That's one reason why this registry is absolutely essential for our two medical schools to continue their research into the possible cause of Parkinson's Disease. I appreciate Senator Crosby's information regarding the debilitating effect of Parkinson's. I also have personal knowledge of what it can do to the system. And we are dealing here with a total unknown and too high an incidence in Nebraska. We have an opportunity here to really do something significant with this registry. And I would urge all of us to support this bill.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you. Senator Matzke. Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Wesely, could you respond to just one quick question? Is there an arthritis disease registry in Nebraska?