

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 18, 1999 LB 519

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Lynch to open on the bill.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. Chairman and members, LB 519 addresses an important unmet need and the need for planning. In July of 1996, Congress enacted a law that provided for studies with respect to TBI, traumatic brain injury. (In) 1997 they established a program of state grants and demonstration grants to improve access for the treatment of traumatic brain injury and the grants were based on a match by the state on a two to one basis. There are two grants, one...category one was state implem...the implementation grants, and number two was a state planning grants. Originally, as written in the amendment, as will be discussed here in a minute, did address the state implementation grant. However, the amendment provides for state planning grants. The Nebraska Brain Association, in conjunction with the Department of Education, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, and other traumatic brain injury advocacy groups formed a nucleus of a group committed to the eventual establishment of a Community-Based Neurobehavioral Rehabilitation Program. Originally drafted, 519, on the implementation grant now has been changed. In fact, about a week before the traumatic brain injury bill was to be discussed, we discovered that in fact there were some changes as federal law applies. Amendment 126, which you'll hear about in just a minute, once adopted will become LB 519. LB 519, as amended, will establish four categories necessary to qualify for these grants. The A bill is not what it appears to be, it's now \$37,500. We hope that you will approve of this so that we can access the \$75,000 of federal monies available to proceed with this planning. There are also deadlines. This planning will not go on forever. The deadline is that this has to be completed and the information provided to the Legislature and the Governor by December 31 of '99, and in fact this act will sunset on July 31, 19...the year 2000. The reason for the planning grant is obvious. It's not appropriate for any of us who have any kind of special concerns to request funds to meet a need, unless we have adequately planned to understand what that need is and what programs are out there, et cetera. We do have a traumatic brain injury registry now. But what we need to know is what programs exist that are being accessed, what people exist out there who are not receiving services at all or adequate services. This planning grant will provide that