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LB 548

we proceed to the next speaker, Senator Schrock would like to announce the 12 seventh and eighth grade students from Phelps County R-4 in...outside of Holdrege are here visiting the Legislature. (Introduced teacher.) So would you please join us in welcoming the students here to the Nebraska Legislature. Thank you for coming today. Senator Byars, the amendment to the amendment.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Senator Bohlke and colleagues. I rise, number one, I...I want to make it very clear that I'm very supportive of the amendment to the committee amendments, the committee amendments, and LB 548. I'm planning on voting in all three instances in a positive manner. I want to commend Senator Pederson and his staff. They've done yeoman duty in trying to understand and to decipher a very difficult piece of legislation to many of us who need their understanding in working with us on this matter. I think the motives behind LB 548 are extremely positive. They will reach out to access Medicaid dollars that we're not utilizing now. It's very positive for the school districts and reimbursing them in areas that they are now taking from General Fund dollars or are having to use other dollars they can use elsewhere, that are needed so badly elsewhere, and at the same time gives the opportunities for supplementing services to people with special needs, of all sorts of special needs. Because of the technical nature of the bill, however, there are several areas that I have been working with Senator Pederson and his staff to make certain that the language in this bill is adequate to make absolutely certain that the type of outreach services that are being proposed are not a duplication; that we have services that indeed don't reach past their intended purpose; making absolutely certain that the billing system, I have some questions about how we're going to be able to use the current billing system. I'm not certain that we're not going to have to somewhat separate the billing system for these new Medicaid dollars from the current billing system for MIPS. I think the amendments that Senator Pederson has brought have improved this bill immensely in trying to interpret exactly what it does. The reason I'm standing is to urge your support for the bill and to also get on the record the fact that I do still have some concerns with the type of outreach services, the current billing system, making certain that there's not a duplication of services. Senator Pederson has assured me off