

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

February 11, 2000 LB 950

this testing a standard of care. By making it a standard of care, it is expected on the part of the pediatricians, the hospitals, and the insurance companies that this is a testing that must be done, but it is not put in the form of mandatory language. The insurance companies and the hospitals, the doctors, all tell me this will enable them, without having a mandate, to initiate the hearing screening for all of our newborns and the insurance companies will then negotiate with the hospitals and the doctors on the fees that they will pay.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Let me...let me interpret your answer then. What you...what you seem to be saying is that it's probable that most of the middle class and insured kids in Nebraska do not yet have that coverage, but it is your hope that...that the validity and advantage of this practice would be illustrated by what you're doing here along with your standard of care amendment, and that it would spread to all kids then.

SENATOR BYARS: Yes, Senator.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Is that accurate? Okay, thank you. Thank you, Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. The lights that are currently on are Senators Bohlke, Dwite Pedersen, Beutler, Redfield, Vrtiska, and Jensen. Senator Bohlke, did you wish to speak?

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I decided I had better speak to the committee amendments if I was going to get an opportunity to speak to the bill. So I rise in support of the committee amendment and also in support of the bill. I don't know how many of you know that in...before being in the Legislature long years ago, my background is speech pathology and audiology. And as a matter of fact, I was the audiologist that did the hearing program for the City of Omaha, that I was in charge of doing all the testing that was referred to me by the nurses. And I can tell you that obviously discovering the severe hearing problems early is an advantage, and what I have been able to see, the families that often are unaware that their baby or young child has a severe auditory problem are those families who would not have the hospitals