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question for you. I can tell you that significant bilateral hearing loss is present in one to three per 1,000 newborn infants in the well-baby nursery population, and that two or four per 100 infants in the intensive care unit population. And at the present time the average age of detection of significant hearing loss is 14 months. We obviously want to change that in the state of Nebraska to have 95 percent of our infants screened at birth. I wish I could give you a little more definitive information, Senator. That's as close as I can to answering your question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Byars. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Redfield, to speak on the advancement of LB 950.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members of the body. And thank you, Senator Byars, I did have my light on so we could continue our conversation. And I do appreciate having numbers. I was referring to the handout, earlier, that you had given us. It is initialed by you with your district number. And on the second page it mentions two methods of testing, the first one is the auditory brainstem response test, small electrodes placed on the baby's scalp and behind ears, it measures brain activity in response to sound. That is the test I was referring to. I am very comfortable with the second test. I wish that we were going to limit it to the second method of testing. I will probably support the bill because I do care a lot about the long-term effects for children and their learning abilities. But I have to say that I now know that I am going to put 997 babies out of 1,000 through a test unnecessarily in order to find hearing loss in 1 to 3, some of which may be corrected by surgery or other intervention, and many of which will not. Thank you, Senator Byars, I appreciate the numbers.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Senator Brown, to speak on the advancement.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise to address some of the issues that Senator Beutler raised. And in my ongoing struggle with exactly what we are doing with the Excellence in Health Care Fund and what our role is, vis-a-vis, that group in terms of making the spending decisions.