

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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in the way that I thought it ought to be written, so that we would eliminate a lot of surplussage and boil it down to what the bill intends to say. Then the members can look at that and decide if this is what the body would like to do. So I'm offering this amendment and telling you that I did not do anything to change what the bill is designed to do. So you can look it over and decide whether or not you want to adopt it. Then, if you adopt it, the amendment, you can decide if the program is one that you want to vote for. Now I'm going to yield whatever time I have remaining to Senator Aguilar.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Aguilar, you have about eight minutes.

SENATOR AGUILAR: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, and thank you, Senator Chambers. During the previous discussion of LB 1101 there were several concerns raised regarding the language contained in LB 1101. I am pleased to tell you that the issues raised on the floor have been addressed by Senator Chambers' amendment and I rise in support of that amendment. However, before addressing those concerns, I would once again direct this body's attention to the many, many benefits of this program. The Senior Companion Program is a successful, time-proven program that has been in existence for over 25 years. It utilizes the skills, education, training and experiences of low-income seniors, age 60 and over, and in return provides seniors with tax-free income. One low-income senior volunteer can provide services to five frail elderly individuals for an entire year for approximately \$3,850. If these five frail elderly individuals were placed in a home, in all likelihood the state of Nebraska would pay approximately \$35,000 to \$38,000 per year for each senior. It allows seniors the dignity of being able to choose to stay in their own homes. I urge you to advance LB 1101 to Select File.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Aguilar. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Chambers, did you wish to speak on your amendment? Your light is on. Senator Dickey, you're recognized on the Chambers amendment, AM3114, to LB 1101.

SENATOR DICKEY: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. The cost of nursing home care per person per year has risen to