

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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interested in. This particular bill is something I've worked on for years, and that's why I prioritized it this year. And I'm not going to blame the Governor for doing what he thought was right. I'm going to try to give you just a little bit of information, in the couple minutes that I have, to tell you why I think you ought to support LB 652. Disagreements are disagreements. If you carry the feelings on with it, then you get to come see a person like me, a counselor. So I just disagree with what the Governor has done, but I don't dislike him in any way, shape or form, and hope that them type of feelings aren't something that permeate anything that we do here today. We need 30 votes. If we've got 30 votes, we override the Governor. If we don't have 30 votes, obviously it doesn't pass. I'm not telling you something you don't know. But I hope we all walk out of here with the idea that we did our best to represent our people who we represent in our districts or for the whole state, whatever way you look at it. I do know that the Governor has said he wants to look at a more comprehensive plan and go back, basically, to the study table and keep looking at this. We just had a comprehensive plan returned to us this year. The year before that we did a plan, the year before that we did a plan. In the 36 years that I've worked in the Nebraska with young people, we're always doing a plan, but we never make the move. We also hear that we can't afford this, the state can't afford it. Now I'm going to reiterate some of the things that Senator Thompson said, but the state doesn't have to pick all this up. The county now does have to pick all this up, they pick up 100 percent. In Douglas County alone we have 98 percent of our kids that are Medicaid eligible. If the state was picking this up, they could get 60 percent of that reimbursed from the feds. So it's not an entire bill that they have to pick up. Douglas County alone is spending over \$3 million a year, and just this morning, people, the Douglas County Board met and they were asked for \$900,000 more for these placements, plus another \$250,000 attorney fees. That is property tax, every cent of it, out of the Douglas County people's pockets. But you people that don't live in Douglas County do have some worries, too. Saunders County had over \$150,000. Now, Saunders County isn't a very big populated county. How many more \$150,000 in the future can they stand to lose? How about a county like Richardson County where Senator Vrtiska comes from, who we had to give money a few years ago so they could handle