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FLOOR DEBATE

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community partner. They also have full benefits after six months. Employees, single employees, can buy health insurance, full-coverage health insurance, for \$24 a month. That's almost unheard of in today's times of the high cost of health insurance. They really are a great community partner, and as of this time they haven't used LB 775 funds. But if they ever decide to expand in our community, I would like to have that available for them to take advantage of that, because they are a good community partner. Thank you for your time, and I would yield the rest of my time to Senator Brashear at this moment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Brashear, you have about...about a minute and a half have elapsed.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body, and thank you, Senator Aguilar. I appreciate the opportunity to finish this because when I had all these statistics before me I thought they were worth sharing. I've told you about the 69 counties that haven't grown since 1890. I've told you much of this. There is a punch line that I think I can time this just right on a minute and a half. I want to go back over briefly, based upon our per capita income in Nebraska of \$28,500 per person, per year, that calculates to \$2.8 billion per year of economic force and increase in our economy by virtue of the increase in our minority population. And our tax revenues, those people are paying \$1,742 per person, per year, in state and local taxes, and that's \$171 million per year of additional tax revenue, and we can thank God for it. And the final punch is that in the year 2000, if we hadn't had the growth that we had by reason of our minority population, we would have lost a seat in the United States House of Representatives. And my point is, I know everybody here knows it, but we're supposed to be debating public policy on the public record. I think all across Nebraska we, as leaders in our communities, need to make sure that people understand the facts of life, don't have any wrong-headed assumptions and, in fact, are welcoming this growth that we so desperately need with all of its many benefits. Certainly, it has some detriments in terms of schooling, in terms of language proficiency. We have to fund around and work around those things, but we need this growth and we need it desperately. Thank you.