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April 3, 2003 LR 39

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Connealy.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. LR 39 does urge President Bush and the Nebraska delegation of Congress to enact an affordable, voluntary Medicare prescription drug program that's available to all Medicare beneficiaries. The high cost of prescription drugs is a crisis in this country. It's especially heinous for low-income seniors. In the past, we've addressed this issue, but now it's vital that the country steps up and provides leadership. I introduced this resolution on behalf of the AARP. The AARP has introduced this resolution in other states around the nation. The President, in his State of the Union, pledged \$400 million over the next 10 years to modernize Medicare and provide a prescription drug coverage, but there's a limited time for this to get enacted. I think we have a small window, and so we need to urge Congress to enact this at this time. This could save the state of Nebraska up to \$9 million in costs that we're covering now, and I ask that you support this resolution.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Connealy. We're open for discussion on LR 39. Seeing no lights, Senator Connealy, do you wish to close?

SENATOR CONNEALY: Just to read the pertinent words of the resolution that the Legislature urges enactment of an affordable, voluntary Medicare prescription drug benefit that's available to all Medicare beneficiaries, regardless of where they live or what type of Medicare coverage they select; a copy of this resolution to be sent to the President of the United States and to each member of the Nebraska congressional delegation.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Connealy. You've heard the closing. Members, all in favor of LR 39 please vote aye, and opposed nay. Please record.

CLERK: 30...excuse me, Mr. President, 26 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of LR 39.

SPEAKER BROMM: The resolution is adopted. We go to the next