

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

April 8, 2003

LB 513

I've been concerned about this bill itself. And although I know it's very well meaning, and I have a great deal of respect for Senator Byars and his interest in health matters generally, I'm concerned about where we're going with legislation such as this. The primary focus of the discussion at least has been on the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. And my ever-ready staff has obtained for me a copy of the preenrollment health requirements of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. The only thing that is presently required on the health form at the university is immunity from measles. Now, in the form it goes on to say, the following vaccines are not required for admission to this university, but are highly recommended by the University Health Center. And tetanus is one, and then another is hepatitis B, and finally the meningococcal vaccine that we're talking about here. So these are recommended currently, highly recommended by the university, in its application form. And the form goes on to say, the freshman students living on campus. So they're concerned about that issue. But now we are involved as a Legislature in trying to designate what the University of Nebraska should require, what they should inform. And is that our responsibility? It seems to me that the University of Nebraska...which, incidentally, in Lincoln has five physicians on staff...and it seems to me that we are, by Legislature, attempting to invade what is the responsibility of the university. I think that we do not need to do this. I think the university is fully capable of warning the students and giving them adequate information. When we stop to think of all of the things that we could say they need to be informed about, I think that they are fully capable of determining, on the university staff, what they're capable of saying needs to be done and should be done. And I think we reach a point that the Legislature is attempting to dictate to one of our entities what they should do and shouldn't do. And I think that's inappropriate. And I really go beyond what Senator Chambers is saying, where he says they should do certain things in this amendment. I think that this particular legislation is totally unnecessary. So with that, I thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM PRESIDING

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Senator Byars.