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LB 407

SENATOR SMITH: I'd waive.

SENATOR CUDABACK: He waives that. Senator Louden, did you wish to address the amendment to the amendment?

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members of the body. I haven't read the amendment to the amendment yet so I was still speaking on the original amendment. This is something we need for our area out in western Nebraska to fund our health service...federally qualified health centers which we have out there. My understanding is that the money is in, by the fiscal analysis, that the money is already there. It isn't like we have to go out and fund some money. It's mostly that set up a vehicle so that these...this area can be...can receive these funds. Part of it is that you got to have something like 75,000 people or minorities in order to qualify for some of these federal funds, and of course in that part of the country, why, there's only some 90,000 people in the whole Congressional 3rd District, is my understanding. We don't have that many minorities, but nonetheless we do cover some 11-county areas, about 14,000 square miles, which is nearly a third of Nebraska. And this is something that these people out there need health care funding just the same as where they do in downtown Omaha or any of the other areas around. I'll intend to support this amendment too, since it isn't something that we have to go out and levy money some place to get. And with that, I'd turn over any time I have to Senator Smith.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and Senator Louden. I waived my last opportunity because I wanted to speak to AM1884, hoping to just get a vote quickly on the floor amendment, but nonetheless I will take this opportunity to I hope correct some misinformation that was stated earlier. I'm not sure where Senator Jensen got the information saying that the subject dollars here would only go to the 3rd District. That's not in my amendment. As I stated in my amendment, this would go to any congressional district containing communities with medically underserved areas or populations, or health profession shortage