

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

May 14, 2003

LB 407

have the language actually to follow that. And this relates then to appropriations of the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund. First, the amendment adds references to the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund as a source of cash funds in the bill where appropriate. Secondly, the amendment makes clear the funding appropriated to the federally qualified health centers in Omaha area must be equally distributed, which is the intent of the Appropriations Committee when the funds were added to LB 407. The amendment also adds language from existing law to clarify that all minority health funding from the Health Care Cash Fund to the FQHCs in the Omaha area must be used for the same purpose that is used for the rest of the state. Those are for minority health initiative, which may target but not be limited to infant mortality, cardiovascular disease, obesity, diabetes, and asthma. I'm offering the amendment to make the technical corrections, but I want to reiterate my pledge that I made earlier to look at the big picture of funding, of the funding system before next session with input from Senator Smith, Senator Chambers, Senator Thompson and other interested parties. I believe the present form is unfair because it doesn't provide funding throughout our system in an equitable manner. But the allocation of funding specific to HQFHCs (sic) also creates a precedence that complicates the implementation of minority health initiatives originally established in LB 692. The underlying question remains, what do we do with other FQHCs as they come along and are currently established and those that will be established in the future? I would just ask for adoption of the amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jensen. You've heard the opening on AM1854, offered by Senator Jensen. Open for discussion on that amendment. Senator Jensen, there are no lights on. He waives the opportunity to close. The question before the body is adoption of AM1854, offered by Senator Jensen to LB 407. All in favor of the motion vote aye, opposed nay. The question before the body is AM1854, offered by Senator Jensen to LB 407. Have you all voted who care to? Have you all voted who care to? Record please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Jensen's amendment.