

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

March 16, 2004 LB 1084

Senator Chambers' personally and politically held positions or opinions on those other elected officials in the state of Nebraska. And I recognize that he has every opportunity under our procedures and rules to use his microphone for whatever purposes that he would wish. His last comments though, that he wished to speak of specifics and to go through them but nobody else wants to listen, again, every time he has spoke, I have spoken, and I have offered every time, if he has recommendations that would make this better, we can do that. Even he admits that there is some level of Medicaid fraud in the state of Nebraska. And again, the answer is, we don't know what that looks like, because there is no ability for the state of Nebraska, under our law or under the federal law, to be able to hold those individuals accountable who have frauded our system. So we have agreed that that is true, and the devil is in the details. And I would be more than happy, as I've repeatedly made the claim to those of you listening, as well as to the senior member, that if he would like to go through the bill issue by issue, I'll be here till midnight, or however long the senior member would choose to stand up with his stamina to be able to go through these issues and to figure out what would be amenable for the process and to get to a desired result that creates a fraud unit that investigates and prosecutes those who would violate our state law in regards to the allocation of Medicaid dollars, and would also investigate those who would seek to abuse or neglect those who are clients or those who would be under the authority of the state in regards to the Medicaid system. Again, that could be a number of individuals, from those who would be in a hospital facility, those who may be in long-term care, those who may be sexually abused, assault. There's a number of areas where a young person may also be in a situation that the investigation could cover them as well. This is an opportunity for us as a state to move forward. The issue of...the peripheral issues, if you will, about individuals going other places is obviously going to be part of this discussion, because it relates to the Attorney General's Office. It's been reportedly...it's been said repeatedly on this floor that the Attorney General went on his own behalf, paid for his expense on his own, similar to what Senator Chambers probably did last year when he traipsed to Philadelphia to debate to the NCAA, and was gone from this legislative body to do that, and came back with