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FLOOR DEBATE

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is an opportunity for Nebraska to explore avenues of funding available at the federal level that may have been overlooked in the past. So I support AM0695 and LB 551, and again thank Senator Flood, Senator Jensen, Behavioral Health Committee, for their support and willingness to work together all these months over an issue that is very important and of a lot of interest to all of us, but the solutions are not easy. And so thank you very much, and I return my time to the Chair.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Burling. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion of AM0695. Senator Don Pederson, followed by Senator Johnson, Senator Flood.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, these are always confusing when you incorporate bills within bills. And looking at the fiscal note on LB 618, it calls for a \$5,990,000 fiscal note. And I know it's only money, Senator Janssen, but it is money. And I've talked to Senator Flood, and he said that the fiscal note should not be that much. Would you please explain to me, Senator Flood, why I should ignore this fiscal note?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Flood, would you yield?

SENATOR FLOOD: Yes, I will. Mr. Chairman, members. I guess, Senator Pederson, just to give you a little background, LB 618 initially did three things. It...number one, it would have appropriated an additional \$4 million from the Health Care Trust Fund for the next two years to pay for additional community-based services across Nebraska in all different regions. The second thing it would do would...is the tracking system. And the initial estimate from Health and Human Services was \$1.5 million. And then you have the remaining balance that you alluded to in your comments there, that would have paid for the study to be conducted on Medicaid. The \$4 million appropriation, or really \$8 million, over the next two years, did not make it into LB 551. The \$1.5 million figure--and Senator Jensen can probably shed more light on this--we worked it out with Health and Human Services that they can track this information without any additional cost. And the fiscal note, obviously, goes down to zero, as I understand it, according to