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

April 5, 2005 LB 709

Nebraskans, hopefully, but specifically we've asked an advisory council, we've asked the members of the Legislature through the Health Committee and through other means to be a part of this Because remember, those reports that are going to discussion. be compiled on a monthly basis will be submitted to the Health Committee and, if I'm not mistaken, there are individuals who are speaking this morning who are a member of ... who currently serve on that committee. They will be intimately involved in this process. However, there may be things that come out of that that it may not be timely for legislation to be introduced, and so the opportunity would be available to the committee and the Chairperson or the Governor to determine the appropriate time and place for that legislation to be introduced. So amendment AM1049 is an attempt to further clarify a vision that is held by myself and Senator Jensen and Senator Beutler to try to move this process in a direction that ensures the type of comment and ability for individuals to be a part of this process. That is the amendment. The interesting part about the discussion this morning is that it seems like there is a vacuum, and the vacuum is, is that information only is going one way. People aren't seem...don't seem to be listening to the discussion. Yesterday afternoon I thought we had a fantastic level of debate about what was involved in this process, what was envisioned. If individuals would like to stand on the floor of the Legislature and oppose change for the sake of opposing change, that's their prerogative. If individuals in the Legislature here this morning would like to see other things be studied, fantastic as well. This process is designed to address a known situation that happens in the future. This is designed to ensure that we have the appropriate responses in compliance and in coordination with what's going on outside. But here's the interesting part. Our friends in Washington aren't going to come back to Nebraska and say, well, we're looking at some issues in Medicaid, as Senator Byars has pointed out this morning, and we're going to require that all businesses in Nebraska get to this national average. They're not going to do that. They're flat out not going to do that. Regardless of happens in this ten-page congressional study, this bipartisan study that I've got a copy of, that I've read, I've looked at, there are still going to be decisions that we as Nebraskans are going to have to make regardless of whether it