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FLOOR DEBATE

April 20, 2005 LB 551, 618, 709

SENATOR ERDMAN: I will waive.

SENATOR CUDABACK: We have a motion that we're waiting to run through. Mr. Clerk, please.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Flood would move to amend the Erdman amendment. (FA168, Legislative Journal page 1226.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Flood, you are recognized to open.

SENATOR FLOOD: Thank you, Mr. President, members. This floor amendment, as we've discussed it with Senator Erdman and with, obviously, Senator Jensen and I co-authored this, thanks to the counsel for the Health and Human Services Committee--this amendment essentially makes the intent of the study consider, are we as Nebraskans getting as much Medicaid money into the state as possible? Now it does not have an A bill on it. This concept was originally introduced in LB 618, which was then merged into LB 551, and in consideration of the \$175,000 fiscal note, we thought it was best to have this committee that was looking at Medicaid examine whether or not we, as a state, are maximizing the money that we can get from Medicaid, to make sure that we fully fund projects like behavioral healthcare reform and so many other services that rely on Medicaid dollars. At this time, if Senator Jensen would like any of my time, I'd be happy to yield so he can further explain this, as we continue to bring it up on our computers.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, and I think Senator Flood explained it as well as I was talking on the previous time that I was here on the floor. The amendment just really says that we will do whatever we can to maximize Medicaid through behavioral health and other issues, to ensure that we are getting the federal share of what the state can endeavor to do. We all know that there is a movement in Washington to reduce Medicaid. I have indicated to our representatives back there nationally that we want to be very, very careful if we do that, because I think there would be a shifting of costs from the