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April 26, 2005      LB 40, 114, 211, 566

in Medicaid and Kids Connection, which are pieces that we have, we also cover eye care and eyewear for those that are eligible. And in the testimony, if you'll remember, the Nebraska Optometric Association is so committed to making...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BYARS: ...sure that these kids don't fall through the cracks, that they want to ensure that every child has access to an eye exam prior to entering kindergarten, regardless of their financial means. So I feel comfortable that they're covered.

SENATOR BOURNE: Senator Byars, and I understand your heart is in absolutely the right place, but when you look at the bill, it says they have to have this exam within six months prior to the entrance of a child into the beginner grades. So the vouchers at the school, I'm concerned with the functionality of how this actually would work. And I don't dispute for a second that there are free programs. The optometrists are great at this, but you see my concern, and I'm not sure that the voucher system resolves the problem, given that they're supposed to have this before they start class. And I'll tell you, we could have had this discussion in the Exec Session, but I was absent, and so I have...I apologize for that. But I'm looking for a little reassurance that this isn't going to be an issue, that people will be able to obtain this service.

SENATOR BYARS: And I certainly, Senator Bourne, as we did on immunizations...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BYARS: I think we're out of time. My light is on.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Your time is up. Mr. Clerk, items for the record or announcements?

ASSISTANT CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. Notice of committee hearing offered by Business and Labor Committee. Amendments to be printed to LB 566 from Senator Don Pederson, to LB 40 by Senator Beutler, and LB 211 by Senator Landis. (Legislative