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LB 117

SENATOR CUDABACK: Any objection? Seeing no objection, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator, I now have AM1668 in front of me. (Legislative Journal page 1676.)

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Pedersen, to open.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. This looks like a simple amendment but it's one that I hope that I can convince you. I'm sending out a handout of what a lady wrote in the Lincoln Journal Star, which gives real good reason for this type of amendment. This changes the milligrams to grams, and the reason of it is that one of the most popular drugs I know for...used for allergies is Claritin, Claritin-D. And when LB 117 was drafted, it was drafted using Sudafed, and Sudafed is used every 4 hours and Claritin, you can get, that lasts one for 24 hours, so it's going to have more grams in it than the Sudafed for 4 hours. The note that this lady wrote, or editorial, was that she's going to have to run to the doctor...or to the pharmacy a lot more times than she ever has before in order to get the medication she does now for her family who all suffer with allergies. And Senator Chambers mentioned when he first started that all we're going to add is a burden onto people with this. I don't know if that's all but it is going to be a burden to have to run to the store every time you want Claritin-D, and it is a widely used drug for allergies. I would hope that you would consider changing this. I know that Senator Bourne and the Governor's Office do not support this, but take a look at it, people. How many people do you have, how many of you people, which I'm sure every one of you has been touched by allergies in your families, and how they depend on over-the-counter drugs to take care of them. Now the makers of Claritin-D happens to be a company that is in my district by the name of Schering-Plough. But not just because of that am I carrying this amendment. I've got family members who survive year around on Claritin-D. I've got a son-in-law who has many, many allergies, and Claritin-D controls them. I think it is ridiculous to put this down and leave it the way it is and