

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

March 24, 2006

LB 965

original...the other bill cost \$8 million bucks, which was open-ended; didn't want to do it. This was...we felt we'd try a flier for maybe a million bucks.

SENATOR ENGEL: I appreciate what you did and perhaps, as we see how this gels out, perhaps we can amend it in the future. Thank you very much.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Engel. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion. Senator Howard.

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the body. I stand in support of Senator Jensen, my Chairman of Health and Human Services Committee, for two reasons. First off, his bill gives people more control over their own lives, and here in Nebraska we treasure that option. One of the things people fear most about growing older is not being able to remain in their own homes; having something happen to them that puts them in a situation where they're no longer making their own decisions. And having money, honestly, is a big part of what you're able to do in your life. I'm glad Senator Jensen has brought this in. I think this is a significant bill. I know, from having talked with Senator Jensen many times, he is very concerned about the Medicaid rise in costs. He has worked diligently to address this problem, and this certainly is an important factor in that. And I thank him for bringing this bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Howard. Further discussion on the Revenue Committee amendments? Senator Combs.

SENATOR COMBS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I rise in support of the Revenue Committee amendment and also the underlying bill. Having been a director of nursing in long-term care for 9 years, I've worked in long-term care for 14 altogether, I sat down with many families, as they were admitted to the nursing home, and went over their financial status and we worked out how long their assets would last, along with the social work coordinators. And it was very discouraging to see what Medicare does not pay for. Medicare does not pay for what we call custodial care, which could be around-the-clock personal