

fit under the definition of germaneness that we have that it says relates only to the details of the specific subject of the bill. And it also points out that a nongermane amendment is one that accomplishes substantially different purposes. Well, if this is germane, then we are not going to have any problem in the future finding anything else germane because there will always be some broad philosophic concept that will serve to encompass everything that anyone wants in any bill. So I suggest to you that any reasonable reading of the rule would indicate that the amendments are not germane and that the Speaker's ruling should be upheld.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I would strongly urge you to vote to overrule the Chair on this motion and I, just as strongly as Senator Beutler on the other side, feel that it would be a major mistake not to allow us to at least discuss the amendment and I think Senator Warner expressed his strong feeling on it as well. Senator Beutler would have you believe that if this bill or any amendment to it, I should say, doesn't deal exactly with the wording of a medicaid cap, then it isn't germane and that straight jacket approach to legislation on this floor is not going to serve us well as we try to deal with the issues before the State of Nebraska. The issue embodied in LB 618 as presently amended is trying to deal with the medicaid cost problem, and to deal with that we have put on a cap on medicaid expenditures of 3.75 percent. The amendment to this bill carries that step one step further again with the same issue, the same focus, to try and bring that medicaid cost under control. I believe it absolutely is germane. It goes in the direction of what this legislation presently is trying to accomplish. It augments what this legislation is personally trying to accomplish, and to suggest it is not germane I think is absolutely wrong. I think it is germane and I think those who would like the easy opportunity to not have to confront the issue face to face would probably like to vote against this overruling of the Chair but I think we ought to have the opportunity to discuss the issue and I think it is a sham to talk about the nongermaneness because I think it is germane. That is one way to get around the issue but what does the amendment exactly try to accomplish. The first part of the amendment deals with the elements of LB 611 which has been considered before in committee and on the floor. It deals with the Department of Public Welfare Director having the choice of what optional services to provide and also to look at the eligibility requirements under these services. I think personally that this is a