

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

April 14, 1997      LB 798

SENATOR LYNCH: Is it 100 percent of what they take in a year?  
Is it four months?

SENATOR VRTISKA: I don't...

SENATOR LYNCH: You know, insurance companies, I know, and others have to have by law a certain amount of reserve so they can be considered viable and survive. I think you'll find that the reserves in some of these institutions far exceeds, far exceeds what the law of the state of Nebraska says other people in competitive business have to continue to provide.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Lynch. I guess the thing that I see in this whole, and this is a difficult issue. I'm sure it is for a lot of people simply because I firmly believe that certificate of need is an important aspect that we need to have in place. But if we're not going to utilize it and it's not going to...it's going to be circumvented, then what value is it? That's the...that's the troubling part that I have and I think probably some of the other people on the floor may, in fact, feel the same way. As many of you know, and has been discussed earlier, I was involved with certificate of need at its onset and felt like it was a way to go, that it would in fact contain costs, they would have to justify the need for expansion in beds and equipment, and just couldn't go out and buy for the purpose of competing. But it seems as how it hasn't worked. And that's what really bothers me about the discussion here today and the problems we're having dealing with this piece of legislation. I have to be honest with you, I'm sort of caught in the middle on this issue because I would like to see, as much as anybody is, to be able to contain health care costs. But I guess what bothers me is I'm not sure certificate of need is actually getting that done. And I hear the discussion about the small amount of money that is spent on actually the costs...I'm not, you know, I'm not aware of those figures, except what was presented here, and I assume they're accurate. But, well it's a troubling piece for me, and I'm sure it probably is for other people. And, with that, thank you.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Seeing no further lights, Senator Crosby, you're recognized to close on the