

April 27, 1979

LB 382

to go out of the state to receive this. In the last reports, I believe there were seventeen states and maybe it is up to eighteen or nineteen now and maybe even twenty but I think we have documented seventeen states that have legalized laetrile and so I think it is time that the Legislature here in Nebraska does likewise. I would therefore ask your support of it.

**SPEAKER MARVEL:** Senator Pirsch, do you wish to discuss the Labeledz-Venditte amendments as amended?

**SENATOR PIRSCH:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the Legislature, I rise also to support the amendments, amended amendments to LB 382. We have received a lot of information from different groups, on one hand those who say that it has not been proven and have not really shown me that they are testing it, and on the other hand I have heard numerous personal accounts, received numerous personal letters from people who have been helped and in many instances cured by laetrile. I believe that we must give this an honest and open and keep it free for use by a doctor and a patient. It goes back to the doctor and the patient being free to choose again. I am reminded somewhat as we talk about forbidding and not being endorsed by the Medical Association and the American Cancer Society and I recall back in the days of the polio epidemics before the vaccines and a woman named Sister Kenny was doing hot pack treatments and other various treatments on polio patients that was not accepted in this country and she worked for many years and had to work in Australia because it was not acceptable and had to prove it in other ways in other countries before we finally came to accept her treatment as being the best way. I support the amended amendments.

**SPEAKER MARVEL:** Senator Koch, your light is on.

**SENATOR KOCH:** Mr. Speaker, I have refrained from debate but I have to caution Senator Pirsch that thalidomide was also prominent in Europe as a drug that was acceptable and that same drug caused irreparable damage to particularly newborn so I suggest to you that Sister Kenny in applying heat and therapy, that is a lot more different than ingesting a drug that is yet to be proven that there is, in fact, a cure. So that is my comment and I would hope that you would use some kinds of things that are analogous when we talk about a drug and a cure. All drugs that have proven in other countries to be good not necessarily have proven to be beneficial to us totally. Thank you.