

patients, and not just the...excuse me, than just the terminally ill and the soon to die. It would also include those that are diagnosed as being in a vegetative state, and yet in the bill, itself, we do not define the vegetative state, and I would like to repeat what I said last year. I have a sister now that is in Immanuel Care Center that is diagnosed as incurable, Alzheimers. She is at a point now, she is a lot worse than she was last year. She does not recognize any of us. She cannot speak. She cannot walk. She is bedridden, and the only thing that she is receiving now is food and water and sleeping pills at night. Now if she had a living will, I am afraid that they would have now withdrawn the food and water. If this bill was enacted, the bill would authorize the withholding of food and water from disabled individuals who are not dying, but has been diagnosed as being in a persistent vegetative state. And as I said before, it is not defined in the bill. And I would like to read one letter. I received letters, and I am not going to try to fool you, I received them on both sides. "It grieves me to write this letter." This lady...this young man...no, this young lady is writing. "It grieves me to write this letter because I am doing so reliving my mother's death and the problems I faced with the so-called living will. My mother was dying from cancer. I was not trying to keep her alive by using heroic measures. Comfort was my only intent. I was denied my request of giving nutrients by way of her porta cath. There I was, in December, 1990, at my mother's deathbed fighting a piece of paper, the living will. My mother paid a lawyer to write her living will, and many other people are doing the same. I venture to say 90 percent of the people do not understand the terminology of their wills. Case in point, my mother, she and I talked it over and she wanted to have it changed, but time didn't permit and she went back into the hospital. My problems with her will was more involved than what I have stated in this letter. To be at the side of a loved one, who is dying, and trying enough to find yourself fighting this will is outrageous. I pray the living will doesn't become law in Nebraska." I rise in support of Senator Lindsay's bill, LB 696, the power of attorney bill. And there is just one more paragraph I wanted to read from another letter, and this happens to be a pharmacist, and the last paragraph of his letter says, and he is in a small town in Nebraska, a pharmacist, and he says, "I am currently employed in a small hospital as a pharmacist, and I know we have in place mechanisms to allow those who are old and debilitated or suffering from an incurable illness to refuse extraordinary means of medical care. Our current laws are sufficient." And