

veterans organizations and rural health. I don't particularly see them at this time being germane.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. The question is the germaneness of the amendment. Senator Horgan, would you like to counter or just punt?

SENATOR HORGAN: But, anyway, I think what I will do is punt. Senator Landis's staff has said that Senator Landis did not want me to defend the germaneness question and, therefore, will withdraw.

SENATOR HALL: Is there any objection. If not, the amendment is withdrawn. Thank you. Other items on the desk or on the bill, rather, Mr. Clerk. He withdrew and if there is other items on the bill, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR HALL: Seeing nothing further on the bill, Senator Wesely, to speak to the bill.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I want to begin by commending Senator Dierks and Senator Vrtiska for their initiative with the bill, for their interest in rural health, for the desire to improve the access to health care in rural Nebraska. Both have over many years demonstrated that concern, along with Senator Schellepeper. I know of a great deal of dedication on the part of those individuals to try and improve rural health. So I want to stand in support at this time of LB 152 to be advanced to Select File, but I also want to raise some caution and concern that I did not vote to advance the bill out of committee, I did not vote against it either, because I do think it is headed in the proper direction of addressing concerns about primary care. Senator Dierks mentioned that in his opening. We do have a lack of primary care physicians. We also know of a tremendous lack of primary care physicians and rural health professionals in general across our rural areas. So those are all legitimate concerns and I support them. The problem that we get into is, is this the best step to be taking in an attempt to address and further the goals of more primary care physicians and particularly having those primary care physicians in rural Nebraska? I am not convinced yet that this is the best route to take, and at the same time, I must say having reviewed this