

into health care. So much of it now goes into building and bonds and things like that, and those are all important. But I do think we ought to direct some cigarette tax money into health care, and I hope that you will consider that. With that, again, I rise in support of LB 22.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'd like to make some comments relative to the issue that Senator Lynch brought up. I appreciate the withdrawal, but it's an opportunity to talk about an issue that...that is far more significant and we have a tendency to forget. But over the years what has occurred, that money would be appropriated to an agency, any agency, and a portion of those funds always were in building maintenance, and it almost was inevitable that the funds would be used for operating costs or something else that was...the agency had a choice. And those decisions were not necessarily bad decisions, the same kind of decisions that we probably all make from time to time where we can paint around the windows next year instead of this year, and save the expense, or whatever. And the first thing you know we've made that decision ten years in a row, and then we finally are replacing window casements instead of painting, or I could use any other number of examples. But there was a study committee. Senator Cope was a member of the Legislature, Senator Kelly, it slips my mind, the others who were very active, Lou Ninegar, at that time was on the Kearney State College staff, since retired, was very instrumental. And they went back and looked over the years what had been repeatedly occurring, and LB 309 was devised from that. And LB 309 was intended to take care of deferred maintenance, which was a kind of maintenance that had not been done on an annual basis and state structures were deteriorating. I recall somewhere in that period, after it was...those first reports, it runs in my mind that the cumulative cost, at the time, was estimated to be around 39, 37, 39 million, runs in my mind. And I know we started out with \$7 million appropriation to the deferred maintenance. And there would be a practice in the Appropriations Committee, if we got toward the end and there was a little extra money that was not designated and still stay within our targets, we would add to the 309 fund. Unfortunately, when money was short we did the same thing that the agencies were doing, we would reduce it when we were a little short, and said, well, we can defer that for a year. It was interesting to hear Senator Lynch, for me, talk of that