

SENATOR BROMM: Senator Wesely, when did this bill come out of committee?

SENATOR WESELY: Last week.

SENATOR BROMM: Okay.

SENATOR WESELY: About a week ago maybe.

SENATOR BROMM: And the reason...one of the reasons I asked that is that outside of people writing me being opposed to the cigarette tax, I've had virtually no contact on this bill from constituents, health care providers, and that puzzles me a lot. I think I did have an inquiry a few weeks ago and, from what checking I could do, I had some doubt as to whether or not this bill was really going to be here on the floor in full force this session and so I have some concerns about...about whether or not there is adequate communication and information out to the health care providers for us to get a...for them to have a good chance to react to what's in the bill and I also...I want to commend you for the effort on this bill. I have no problems with your objectives and I...and I think they're absolutely a hundred percent essential and honorable and we need to address these things and to develop a plan for Nebraska such as this is absolutely something I agree with. I do have...I do have...whenever we do something like this, any government body, I think there's a tendency, without even intending to do so, to absolutely create more...more bureaucracy when we're trying to reduce bureaucracy and a small example, I guess in Section 1 on page 1, Senator Wesely, we're requiring the Department of Health to adopt rules and regulations to assist in implementing that section which deals with how we prepare our bills. Do you...do you honestly feel that it's necessary and it will be helpful to reduce health care costs to require the Department of Health to adopt rules and regulations to assist in implementing regulations dealing with readable and understandable bills in the format and the data for the patient? I saw that, of course, beginning to read the amendments and I had that question. What's your thinking there?

SENATOR WESELY: Well, Senator Bromm, we passed, some years ago, a bill on itemized billing and at that time what we found were individuals would look through their bill and find overcharges or charges that weren't appropriate and there was a lot of