

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Rasmussen would move to amend this amendment. (FA545 appears on page 1873 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, in response to several folks who, in quite honesty, are still not supportive of the legislation and one of their biggest concerns and reasons for not supporting it is a lack of clarity about what we're talking about here. In this particular amendment, 4481, we are attempting to put in print what many of us had as an understanding in working through the legislation and...but I realize that when you're not a part of that discussion you don't know that that's really what's going to happen. And somebody said, besides, Wesely and I might get hit by a truck and none of this would happen and I don't know if that was a suggestion that somebody was lining up a truck for us, Wesely, or not but whatever the case I agree that I want to be as clear as possible in the legislation what we are attempting to do. So this particular amendment adds to the list of information that needs to be brought back to us before we vote on approval of the plan next year two things, and that is what exact...how exactly will the transitional health coverage work, and how exactly will the child care subsidy work. And what we will do is say we need to have back to us specific information about how...what that sliding fee scale will be like. I mean, it's one thing to say that you're going to have a sliding fee scale that is commensurate with people's income but folks want to know what it is before they actually approve of it. So that's what this particular amendment does. It adds to that list in amendment 4481 to clarify that we need to have that information before the legislative body makes a decision about how to move forward with the legislation next year. So, with that, I would be glad to answer any questions that you might have about this amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Rasmussen. Let me pause one moment here to introduce some guests of the Legislature. Senator Elmer has eight 12th graders from Lawrence High School, along with their teacher, in the south balcony. Senator Schmitt has 36 fourth, fifth and sixth graders from Walbach, along with their teacher. And Senator McKenzie has 48 students from Clay Center, fifth and sixth graders, and their teachers. So if you would recognize all of those, please. Discussing the Rasmussen