

Journal on page 1088 another set of amendments which I am going to hold up temporarily. Senator Kennedy I'm going to make two or three statements and I would like to see if you agree or whether I have to say in explaining these amendments comes close to your opinion of the difference between and Senator Mahoney maybe this will help explain what this....what this bill proposes to do. LB302 as I understood originally was a result of subcommittee study of the appropriations committee. The purpose of this was to set up specific regional or regions to help decentralize mental health. As we had decentralized mental retardation. Therefore when there was money appropriated it could be appropriated directly to these particular regions. We tried to pattern this after the Scottsbluff area, or the panhandle area which had been quite successful by putting about 11 counties together and having an elected official from each of the county or counties forming a governing board. Now, the bill in its original form followed this pattern. But his pattern I mean that the governing body was comprised of elected officials. That was as far as we got during the last session. Then this bill sat over and in between sessions there was a group and I'm not questioning their sincerity but I am questioning the results that came out of that group and that group composed to a great extent of professionals and got together part of them being represented in the Nebraska Mental HEALTH Association and established a new series of amendments which basically took the control of mental health out of elected officials and put it into the hands of professionals. That is where I think that this stands at the moment is that the new series of amendments in effect may leave the districts geographically about the same but in effect move the or loose the control away from elected officials to those in the professional area and this is basically my objection. I don't object to professionals but I object to professionals who somehow or other are not then beholden to those of who are elected to office. I think that at the moment with the adoption of the amendments and the way the bill is now constructed if you approve this you approve the establishment of mental health districts in the state which will be run basically be psychiatrists and social workers. That is all that I want to say at the moment, and I think that it still puts too much power in the hands of the director of the department of public institutions. Who at the moment doesn't have a plan for mental health.

SPEAKER: Do you have an answer Senator Kennedy, I would like to follow order here but if you have an answer you may speak.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Yes, I think Mr. Speaker he asked if I would agree and let me say to Senator Marvel that his explanation up to a point was 100% correct. Now the point that he made that the professionals or the bureaucrats shall have the power or the say so, was in the other bill but not in this bill. This power now reverts back to the elected officials as Senator Marvel said that he would like to have and in this white copy the elected officials are the ones that have the power. This may not satisfy certain professional people, but it does satisfy the committee and I would say the subcommittee, Senator Whitney will speak on this I am sure but this is with the Elected Elected officials having the complete control and I think that is what our committee and that is what the subcommittee agreed and we had a joint meeting