

to this particular subject and this disease?

SENATOR WARNER: Well, number one, the responsibility would be with the Director of Health to make the awards. The language does authorize the Director to establish other procedures he or she may deem necessary for the proper administration of those sections. If you look otherwise in the statutes, there are general authorization for advisory committee, this type of thing that a director could seek to give the kind of technical advice that I think you are suggesting, but we still avoid the creation of a whole new entity of another board and that administrative cost.

SENATOR STONEY: If I understand what you are saying, then, the Department of Health would have the ability to recruit the expertise that this particular committee might have had within the State of Nebraska with people within the profession that have a general and good understanding of this disease and the treatment.

SENATOR WARNER: The answer is, yes, but it is by virtue of the fact that they would already have that kind of authority or the director does, if they want to do it. So, and this specifically would authorize them to use those other statutes to do that.

SENATOR STONEY: One additional question, Senator Warner. When you were discussing where these funds might be appropriated, is there any problem with the funds being distributed to an institution within the state that is not a public institution? I think more specifically you mentioned Creighton University.

SENATOR WARNER: Someone may want to get, you know, an opinion specifically but I do believe that we have other examples of awards and grants made by state agencies on a contractual basis to nonpublic entities, and to that extent, I think it probably would be okay. It is limited to postsecondary education institutions having a medical department and are located within the state and that is the only two that there are, of course.

SENATOR STONEY: Thank you, Senator Warner. With the information that Senator Warner has provided, I feel that I will be in a position to support his amendment. I, too, had some difficulty with the inability of the Legislature to impact on decisions that would have been reached by this committee and would have felt much more comfortable if we had had legislative oversight through the appropriation process. But it appears with the amendment as explained that this will accomplish the same purpose and, therefore,