

April 28, 1981

LB 404

services that they could get in the large cities but out there in the country these services are not available today and they would be available with a program of this type. So I heartily endorse 404.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Wiitala.

SENATOR WIITALA: Mr. Speaker, I respectfully call for the question.

SENATOR NICHOL: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Senator Nichol voting aye.

SENATOR NICHOL: Have you all voted? We are voting on ceasing debate. Record, please.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 1 nay to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR NICHOL: Debate has ceased. Senator Fowler, did you wish to close, please?

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. Chairman, I am closing in behalf of all the members of the interim study committee that traveled across the state, Senator Maresh, Senator DeCamp, Senator Rumery, Senator Marvel. We had these hearings and again, I would just reiterate quickly that LB 404 is a followup to what was presented there. And it is that there are services but that we need to write into law the relationships between the different parties in these services. LB 404 pretty well strikes a balance I think between local control and state oversight so that services can meet local needs, but we can have the assurance at the legislative level that we are getting the quality that our money should get. So there is a balance there. As far as the fiscal impact, with the committee amendments the final control on that rests with the Legislature. It is in our hands. There is no mandate of services by a certain date. That has been removed so the funding is up to us. I would reiterate again that just in one year in our state budget that we are considering the amount of money that we are spending on nursing home cost is increasing 4 million and the amount that we expect counties currently to pick up under Medicaid for nursing home costs is going to increase 2 million. So you can see that already several million dollars every year going to nursing home costs. As several senators have pointed out and as was pointed out across the state time and time again, some of those nursing home placements are