

May 8, 1981

LB 404

then would still go on regardless whether your amendment is there or not. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President, I would have to oppose the Warner amendment since the Cullan amendment was rejected. I think that the transition that Senator Warner calls for in 404 is too abrupt and too soon. Again I would reiterate in the hearings that we had across the state in Omaha, in Lincoln, in Norfolk, in North Platte and Hastings, several concerns were expressed, a desire for a writing into the statute of a current structure for delivery of Aging services, a desire for greater state participation and involvement in community Aging services. But there was not expressed at those hearings the desire for the Aging services to fall as a code agency. I think Senator Cullan has indicated that the Health and Welfare Committee is going to look at the regional structure and the regional system with regards to human services over the next interim. I think that Senator Cullan and the Health and Welfare Committee should be given a chance to take a look and see if there is a demand for the Warner amendment. But based on the interim study that I chaired, that I participated in, based on the testimony that was given at the hearings, particularly in Omaha, there was quite a large turnout when there had been a rumor generated I think in response to a possible recommendation of the Governor's Task Force. There was a good deal of people who turned out and said they did not want Welfare to come under direct control of the Governor. They did not want the Aging services to come under the direct control of the Governor. And I think that that sentiment was strongly expressed there in Omaha and at no place can I recall that there was a strong demand for the change that Senator Warner proposes. I was willing to give Senator Cullan the opportunity with his amendment to study this question further and to look at the structure. But I do think that Senator Warner's amendment is premature and I think that 404 should be left in its current form without the Warner amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to support the Warner amendment, and I would like to call to the attention of the body that with the adoption of the Warner amendment you have one person that is very sensitive to the wishes of the Legislature and to the wishes of the voters that you can go to, and the buck