

research monies with the other researchers in the State of Nebraska by applying through appropriate and normal channels to the Director of the Department of Health and then they can receive these research monies and help them develop the research programs at their particular institutions. So I am not speaking against the motives that Senator Warner, and Dave Tews and Dr. Eliot and others have. What I do object to at this point in time is the fact that we are making a special appropriation through LB 506. Dr. Eliot has the ability to apply to the Director of the Department of Health to receive these funds competitively with others who desire to do research in the State of Nebraska. I would encourage him to do that if he wants to use these research funds. I think it is inappropriate for us in the Nebraska Legislature to pick out one researcher or one program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center over programs, other programs. The process that we have set up is for the Director of the Department of Health to evaluate those research grant and contract requests which he receives and to pick those which are best. That I think is the appropriate process, not for the Legislature to step in and give one department, one particular department and program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center this type of preferred status. Now granted it is an excellent program that Senator Warner is trying to help out, but if it is such an excellent program and if the research is that important, I have no doubt that these funds will be obtained in the competitive process through the procedures that we have already established in LB 506. So I would urge you to reject the Warner amendment. The last thing I would like to say is that it is late in the session. There are four days left. I heard news of this amendment from Mr. Tews sometime ago and they could have attempted this at General File and certainly at Select File and it is unfortunate they waited until Final Reading. So I would really urge you at this late stage to reject the Warner amendment. I still believe that the purpose which Senator Warner is attempting to accomplish through this amendment can be achieved if the individuals he is trying to assist and the programs he is trying to assist simply apply for competitive grants through the process established in LB 506. I would urge you to reject the Warner amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: We are speaking to a return of the bill for a specific amendment. The Chair now recognizes Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, again, I had it to offer on Select File, Senator Cullan, and it slipped by me for which I apologize. I guess the real purpose of the amendment, maybe it is not needed based upon