

March 22, 1982

LB 942

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Cullan would move to amend the committee amendments, Request 2852, page 1272 of the Journal. (Read Cullan amendment).

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, a question of the Clerk. Are we also voting on Section 13? Or are we voting simply on Section 12?

SENATOR CLARK: You are on Section 12.

CLEFK: Section 12 only, Senator.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, the reason I am approaching it this way is if my amendment is unsuccessful, then I would support Senator Chronister's amendment. So I would proceed... I would like to proceed with this amendment which is in effect rejecting Senator Warner's, this phase of Senator Warner's committee amendments. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the reason that I oppose or that I ask you to adopt my amendment which does eliminate Section 12 of Senator Warner's proposed Section 12 of Request #2852 are as follows: Senator Warner brought, and the Appropriations Committee brought LB 932 to the Public Health and Welfare Committee for a public hearing. The Health and Welfare Committee did not advance LB 932, nor did they advance a competing proposal or a different proposal which would have specifically eliminated a large number of services which exist in the Medicaid program today. The philosophy of the Health and Welfare Committee and my philosophy in this regard is simply this. We should not delegate this type of authority to the Director of the Department of Welfare. If the Legislature wants to eliminate services in the area of Medicaid then the Legislature should specifically eliminate those services rather than delegate that authority. If we want to eliminate optometrists from Medicaid then we should do it here rather than delegate that authority to the Department of Welfare. That really I think is the key to this issue. The second point I would make is that the Health and Welfare Committee will be taking a look this summer at other ways to curb Medicaid costs and other areas of the Medicaid program which can be cut down and eliminated. I think it is very unwise of us at this point and time to merely delegate that authority, which I think is a legislative prerogative, to the executive branch of government. I guess that is all that I would say now except when you look at this and you have been lobbied by the chiropractors and others, you can see why we are concerned