

very much about the scope of practice of many of these professions because they are automatically covered under Medicaid. So, whenever we expand the scope of practice of a group like the chiropractor's in LB 924, we are also making them, impacting directly the state's budget by the way it impacts Medicaid. I urge you to think of that when we examine LB 924 later on in the session as well. At this point and time I urge you to support my amendment and reject the Appropriations Committee's approach in this regard.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Kilgarin, on the Cullan amendment.

SENATOR KILGARIN: Thank you Mr. President and members of the body. I would just rise to support Senator Cullan's amendment. I think that we are delegating an enormous amount of discretion to the Director of the Department of Public Welfare, I think way too much power and authority. I do believe that it belongs in the Legislature. I know that sometimes people look at these decisions as political "hot potatoes" but I don't think it is fair for us as legislators to advocate our responsibility to the people of the state by handing that "hot potato" to someone who really doesn't care if their hands get burned or not, that being a bureaucrat running a department. So I would urge you to support Senator Cullan's motion to strike this section. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Well Mr. President, the effect of Senator Cullan's amendment is to strike the committee amendment. I would rise to oppose it and support the committee amendment as it is introduced. Somewhere up to two million dollars would be the cost over and above what we have in the budget if you adopt Senator Cullan's budget amendment. Now I can not identify exactly which programs out of the eleven or twelve that would no longer be mandated or what portion of them, but I can assure you that a significant increase in the general fund portion budget would be necessary. While I might concur in the general sentiment that we ought to have done this selectively, the Health Committee did not do it selectively. As far as I know they still have the bills in committee and if we are going to get through this next fiscal year it seems to me that a minimum we have to do is adopt the committee amendments so that there is some flexibility available to the department on these reimbursements, on these costs that can be reimbursed. I would hope that you will reject Senator Cullan's amendment and allow the