

We are talking about some necessities here, necessities for good health for people in this state. If you look closely at the amendment on page 1273 of the Journal, it says that the Director of Public Welfare may also provide for such additional services and eligibility as are optional under Title XIX of Social Security Act. Part of the language that is struck includes drugs, appliances, health aids as may be prescribed by health practitioners. Now are we going to say that we are not going to pay for a prescription that someone needs to maintain their health? Yes, it is a high cost item but we are talking about something that is very, very important to peoples' health in this state. I think one clean sweep by handing all of this authority and power over to the Director is not the way to handle this. It is true that the Public Health and Welfare Committee probably should have sat down and gone through and laid out exactly what we were going to fund and what we were not. But as they said it is a very difficult area to deal with. It was a short session and they felt that they needed more time to delineate which services and appliances and drugs and prescriptions, which areas of health care they wanted the state to fund under the Social Security Title XIX. So, I think by taking this one fell swoop approach and just doing away with it and just letting the Director of the Department of Welfare handle it is really, really not practicing good legislative policy. I don't think it is being responsible to the public and I don't think it is being responsible to ourselves by just letting a bureaucrat handle or do what should be our job. So I would urge you to support Senator Cullan's amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: We are going to have to rule your amendment out of order. The reason we will is because you can do the same thing by voting no on the amendment, on this section. Senator Warner.

CLERK: I have another amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Oh, another amendment to it.

CLERK: Mr. President, in that case Senator Chronister would move to amend that portion of the committee amendments. (Read Chronister amendment).

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Chronister, is Senator Chronister here?

SENATOR CHRONISTER: Yes.