

back into the mandated programs one at a time because once you start there is no place to stop. I would hope that you would vote against Senator Chronister's amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Kilgarin.

SENATOR KILGARIN: Again I rise to support Senator Chronister's amendment to the committee amendment. I think at the very least, at the very least we need to say "practitioners" instead of "physicians". Even if the committee amendment is adopted I think again that the least we can do is to say practitioners and not just limit that to doctors because we train medical doctors to be podiatrists we have chiropractors, we have opticians, we have different health care specialists and they are there for a reason. That is their speciality, that is what they do right and best. I think it is important that we recognize that and not leave it optional. Again, leave it to some bureaucrat to decide. It is not his job to decide. It is our job. We are the Legislators, we need to make those decisions. So, I would urge your support, at the very least, of Senator Chronister's amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: (no response).

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'm going to rise and support Senator Chronister's motion because I think it is only appropriate at this point and time that optional service not be eliminated, at least the discretion not be left with the Director of the Department of Welfare. I'm not saying when I opposed Senator Warner's amendment that I would oppose a series of amendments specifically targeted at reducing the cost of Medicaid in the State of Nebraska. But I will oppose Senator Warner's amendments and will ask you to do the same because they simply delegate what I think is a policy matter, which should be decided in this body after debate and discussion on the scope of the Medicaid program rather than simply pass the buck to the Director of the Department of Welfare. So I'm going to urge you to support Senator Chronister at this time and then I would urge you to reject Senator Warner's amendment when it comes up.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Higgins.