

SENATOR CLARK: The amendment is adopted. The next division of the question is number three which is Section 13. Now the question before the House is the adoption of the second part of the amendment as amended. Is there any discussion? All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Senator Wesely did you want to talk? Senator Cullan? All right.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, I just want to make it clear what we are voting upon here. Now we are voting on Section 12 as it has been amended. I would like to liken this Senator Koch, the philosophy of this amendment is...what this amendment does, it says to the Director of the Department of Welfare, you decide where to cut optional services in the area of Medicaid. I think that is akin, Senator Koch, to telling the Director of Education, here are the education programs in the state, you decide where to cut those. To the Director of Agriculture, here are the agricultural programs in the state, you decide where to cut those. It is not a good philosophy, I may support and would support some cuts in the Medicaid program. The state of Nebraska has two comprehensive of a medicaid program, and it is expensive and it needs to be cut. But it shouldn't be cut by just handling the decision making of someone else. So, I urge you to reject the Appropriations Committee amendments to LB 942.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, I'll be very brief. Mr. President, I echo Senator Cullan's comments that we are delegating authority that we probably should not be at this point. The committee is looking at the matter further. I think that I would ask you very much to oppose this amendment to the bill. I would add one thing though that as we talk about this effort what we are dealing with is health care costs, their increases are outrageous, we can't afford this sort of health care costs that we are facing right now and there is a broader picture in mind that we are dealing with as a legislature speaking for the taxpayer but everybody is going to have to pay these same costs and we have to deal with it in a broader context as well. The way that we are dealing with it at this time is to cut out services, feeling that that is the way to keep health care costs down. We are talking about services in terms of eye care and dental care and other sorts of care that people have to have in order to function in our society. We had the hearings on these