

think is a spurious argument, that is, their loss of local control. Senator Cullan said, and I agree with this, if, in fact, this body decides that the retention of almost nonexistent local control is a meaningful thing, then we ought to make certain that the local communities that have the local control pay the freight and we have traditionally...the traditional historic freight cost for local control has been 20% of Medicaid. It's only been in the last three years we've reduced it from 20% to 14% and in addition, if the counties want the local control then they should pay for the workers. The State of Nebraska pays 97% of the worker cost right now, only 3% paid for by the counties. And so, yes, if that becomes the issue, you bet, we'll offer that amendment.

SENATOR VonMINDEN: Senator, you're telling me you'll offer the amendment when it is going to cost your county a million, two hundred thousand dollars?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: You bet.

SENATOR VonMINDEN: I say to you, if this bill is this good, it should be passed without sending to me a kind of a threatening letter out to the county officials. I think it would pass on its own merit without telling them you get on your Senators and pass this bill or else. That's all I have to say.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I understand.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Hefner, briefly I hope.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, Senator Lamb, you know that my speeches are short and to the point. I oppose this bill.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President and members, I'm going to support LB 522A. I think Senator Warner is right that we should be looking at the fiscal impact that it will create next year and that was the reason that I fought the other day to do it in one great sweep and if we're going to relieve the counties of the obligation of taking the control, if they have any, away from them, I think we should do it up front so everyone knows exactly what we're doing. I'm not all that thrilled over parts of 522 but 522A needs to go along with it so that the intent gets to the Governor's office, so the intent is also acknowledged by the Appropriations Committee and I think that we should go ahead and move LB 522A and see what happens. Thank you.