

April 6, 1982

LB 761

of the legislative districts of Senators Nichol, Clark and Cullan, now under the current proposal of the Appropriations Committee, and by the way we have a substantial number of the members of that committee supporting this amendment, under the current proposal Region 1 is receiving a .32% increase, one-third of one percent increase in this budget. If these funds are shifted the way this amendment would shift them, their increase would be 3.75% which would enable them to continue to serve the people they already have which they are not going to be able to do unless they get more than they are currently getting. Now Region 2 which is from Senators Haberman, Vickers and Rumery's territory actually receives a cut over last year in the dollars that are appropriated, a cut of a little over one-tenth of one percent. If these funds are shifted around, Region 2 likewise would get a 3.75% increase which would enable them to continue barely at their level of operating. Now Region 5 which includes southeast Nebraska and Lincoln would go from a two-tenths of a percent, almost three-tenths of a percent, increase to a 3.75% increase. It is also vital for the Lincoln area for it to be able to continue its current level of services for it also to have these increased funds to be able to operate. I have already talked about Region 6 and the situation is the same with Region 6. Now Senator Hefner in opposing this talked about how the private sector and the private community feels about this. Now let me emphasize the fact that among the principal proponents of this amendment are as Senator Hefner indicated the Association of Retarded Citizens. That is a private organization, a private organization of parents that have retarded children, and that organization, that private organization, has made a judgment that these tax dollars are better spent in keeping going what we have going than trying to bring more people in from Beatrice or take people off of the waiting list, because at the current level of funding particularly when the community regional centers have lost a million dollars in federal funding as of last fall, it is going to be very, very difficult for them to keep going what they currently have going. So I think it just makes basic sense for us to adequately fund the people that are currently under treatment before we attempt to move new people into those programs. So with that, Senator Clark, I would ask that the bill be returned for purposes of this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: The question before the House is the return of 761 for specific amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay.

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