

Shall the debate now close? Have you all voted? Record, please.

CLERK: 18 ayes, 12 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate does not close. Senator Nelson, further discussion on LB 338.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I don't want to belabor this and to go on and on but I have some real reservations on this and the bottom dollar here. For example, it talks about home health services. I think our educational service units, our schools, most all of our communities that do have a hospital or so on do have home health services. Our extension services are bringing us nutritional information and so on. I just really have reservations about this. I know the need is there but when we talk about the services and the potential that this bill can offer, there is no way is a public health nurse going to even make a slight dent in the need or the services and I see this as kind of duplication. And the six regions, what are you...for the services that are described here, this could go into a two or \$3 million project, I guess, if the need was answered and the need is out there. To give you a little idea of the Grand Island City Health Department, which is still being maintained outstate and apparently about one of the very few if Hastings and North Platte and Kearney discontinue their services. They have a budget of 300,000 supported primarily 50 percent tax on the county, 50 percent tax on the city and about 150,000 of that amount is license fees, service fees, contracted fees. They also receive a \$25,000 federal grant and plus a \$20,000 AIDS program which is very successful out there. So I just wonder if it's a cup of coffee that's not going to do much good for the needs that are out there or if this is, you know, adding another department, another service that is being duplicated by services that are now provided. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Smith, followed by Senators Wesely, Hefner and Lynch.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President. I have some more questions that I have to ask and I suppose probably the best person to ask again is Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Yes, ma'am.