

against people who are physically and mentally handicapped unable to get housing in certain areas of certain cities in this state and across the nation. This legislation would stop that discrimination in the future. The bill was very broad in its application, under these two categories, would affect most sale of homes or rental of rental units and so individuals should be alert to these changes. They are, however, as I said, if there are concerns about it, federally mandated, if we choose not to pursue this, we stand to lose federal funding for the Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission. We have compliance problems with our building codes which would be superseded by federal building standards. We have...complaints would still be possible, federal law would still be in effect but rather than having them handled through the state EOC they would be handled by federal authorities and I don't think that is particularly advantageous and finally the potential is there to lose \$10 million in CDBG grant monies from the federal government. So I think, clearly, I think this is good legislation and good policy but, in addition, I don't think we have very many options not to proceed. The second federal legislation that precedes this act is the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act of 1990. There they require the states to adopt, by October 31 of this year, a state housing strategy, a five-year state housing strategy. If you remember, the bill last year included such a plan that was required to be completed. That was deleted by the Legislature and it was promised to be completed last year. It was not. So we need to pursue again the idea of having a housing strategy or housing plan for the State of Nebraska. Again, we have various federal programs jeopardized if we do not comply with that legislation. The original bill had the Policy Research Office doing that. That was what the Orr administration wished to do. We have changed, under the committee amendments, that responsibility to the Economic Development Department which is really the housing lead agency in this state and more appropriately should be handling housing matters such as that. With that, I would simply ask your support for the legislation, recognizing it is an important bill which will have a positive impact on many individuals across this state that have suffered from discrimination in the past. Under this legislation, they would no longer be subject to that discrimination. We have worked long and hard with the various parties involved, particularly the realtors and homebuilders who had concerns. They were addressed by the committee amendments. In addition, the League of Women Voters, League of Human Dignity, Urban League of Nebraska and Nebraska Advocacy Services