

April 6, 1992

LB 1059

account that you use services not in any direct relationship to population and I also handed out a copy of an article that appeared in the Scottsbluff paper and it shows that, for example, the most litigious districts in the State of Nebraska are the 17th district and the 5th most litigious is the 16th district. Those two districts would be combined with another district to make up the 12th. I think that easily then we would have the most litigious district in the State of Nebraska with a higher proportion of cases per population. So there isn't any relationship between population and a need for services. There is no direct relationship in any event and if we're going to become the proponents of a policy in the State of Nebraska that simply says that you live outside the major population centers of Lincoln and Omaha or Grand Island and you're not entitled to services...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...then I think we need to rethink the role of government in the State of Nebraska. We don't offer services just because you have a population concentration, we offer services because we have an obligation and responsibility as a state to ensure that our citizens have the same services whether they live in the western part of the state or the eastern part of the state. We have an equal responsibility to both ends of the state and I am appalled that that argument has been raised that somehow because you lack population, you're not entitled to services. That is not the case.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Withem. I don't see Senator Withem. Senator Crosby. The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. We will now vote on ceasing debate. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. We are voting on ceasing debate. Have you all voted? Have you all voted on ceasing debate? Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, I'd ask for a call of the house.

SPEAKER BAACK: We have a request for a call of the house. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 14 ayes, 0 nays to go under call.

SPEAKER BAACK: The house is under call. All members please report to the Chamber and record your presence. Senator