

September 29, 1992 LB 4

that point, for two or three years waiting for services and told, as number two on the waiting list you've got two or three more years. How can we tolerate a system that makes individuals of this high priority need wait for that long a time? It's intolerable. It's unconscionable and it's got to be changed. I wish it could change on July 1 of next year. Unfortunately, the budget problems we have are severe. And just like with the ADC issue, I reluctantly stand in favor of a change that I don't want to see happen but under the budget situation I see no alternative. And so I'm asking you to support the bill, reluctantly, as I am, to delay for two years. I wish there was another way. If we can find the money, I hope we can proceed with these services and that's what the committee amendment calls for. But, short of that, it looks like these individuals who had their hopes raised, who had had their expectations raised that July 1 of next year justice would be served and their causes met, their concerns addressed, will have two more years to wait and hope that some assistance might be forthcoming. That's going to be a terrible blow to those individuals but let us hope that at least in the two years following they will know and have no doubt that they will receive in the year 1995 the services they deserve. So it's my expectation, and I state for the record here, that two more years of delay after they've already waited two years, keep in mind, we passed the bill in '91 and we're saying the services were to be delivered in '93, so they have waited two years. A two-year additional wait that is a four-year wait is long enough and whatever the status we may be in in 1995 is my hope and expectation that we will have no further delays and will move forward and address this terrible problem in our state. With that, I again reluctantly move to advance LB 4.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. President and members, I rise to support the advancement of LB 4. As Senator Wesely has detailed, LB 4 simply is delaying a commitment from the State of Nebraska when we passed LB 830 a few years ago. But I think LB 4 is an enlightening discussion on some of the things that are causing the state, this state budgetary problems and it's these sort of growing programs, the commitments that we made, one, when we have money; two, that we lock into on a long range situation that causes us problems that we are now in as a state, whatever terminology you wish to use, revenue shortfall, budget gap, I don't care what the terminology is there. But it's programs