

September 30, 1992 LB 3

directing this body and to follow through on some of the things that have been brought up in the last few days. The last couple of days I have worked with a few people thinking that maybe we had a quick resolve as we kind of ran into the difficulties of the various ways that we deal with wards of the state and everything from the group home to the individual family foster home to the like, and sat down with some of the people thinking that it shouldn't be that difficult to work out something. We had some thought that went into it on the part of Senator Withem and the Appropriations Committee on the funding techniques, shouldn't be a big problem. The more you sit down and realize that there is a significant problem by virtue of the way various institutions deliver services and maybe more importantly the diversity of the kinds of young people who are wards of the state for various reasons, various needs, going to different institutions and how we handle that, I, personally, am somewhat sensitive as well as to the way we deal with wards of the court by virtue of the fact that, and as I have alerted this body many times, representing an area where basically we have populations and families and interactions on a multistate basis where one city has three states' boundaries literally within that one city, we have an additional complexity and compounding of the problems, in many cases where you have wards of the state and the only services to be offered are actually across the state line. We've seen offerings on this floor in the last few days, Senator Lynch, I think, alluded to it, and others, of what the cost savings would really be in many cases by virtue of not supporting some of the institutions that we have on our side of the river, if you will, versus contracting with those on the other. And that complexity is such that I think, without question, the study is needed. It became much more complex, especially when, in fact, at first wave as you listened to the providers and the institutions and then, all of a sudden, it dawns on you that the ultimate concern ought to be as to how the services are being delivered to those who have the actual needs. And when you throw them into the mix then you know that you're into a complex area that needs further study. So I strongly support Senator Withem's amendment to LB 3 to make sure that we have a dedicated group set aside for that purpose to give us some direction in terms of how to best provide these services to the youth of the State of Nebraska who are wards of the state.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Conway. Senator Lynch. 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,