

on with the administration and others who were concerned with the original bill. It's been redrafted in a fashion that I think clarifies some concerns. It really doesn't change the basic thrust of the legislation but does deal with the objections that were raised. I would strongly support the Robak amendment and ask you to support it as well.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. Senator Wesely, would you yield to a couple of questions?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Sure.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Don, I know we're all kind of scrambling here, no one expected...I'm sure no one expected to have these amendments in front of us today. But we're looking at a five-page amendment that two things have already caught my eye. And I guess the one question I wanted to ask you is, on page 4, line 9, when we're saying the State of Nebraska will do...be...do all of the contracting, talk to me what that means and why not one of the agencies? What does it mean to have State of Nebraska do it? And if you could review for me, with the time that I have left, what some of the concerns were and how those were addressed in this amendment, I would appreciate that.

SENATOR WESELY: Senator Bernard-Stevens, and I apologize too, because we, you know, this is kind of being popped up. The biggest problem we had with the administration was the...how we moved forward with the relationship between the Department of Public Institutions and Department of Social Services. And our bill that Senator Robak has taken the lead on really said the Department of Public Institutions will do it, that they will...they're the one. But the administration rightfully pointed out that DSS is the Medicaid agency, they've got to be brought in, and they wanted to, and this amendment calls for a relationship between the two, now whether or not we actually achieve a relationship that's a working one we'll always be glad to see. But this forces the two agencies to work together and must cooperatively move forward in doing a plan amendment, not a