

February 12, 1996 LB 1044

we need to do to address these problems. So if the state, if we don't take this step, we can't just tell the agencies try and work together and see what you can do, we've tried that. It can't happen. We've got statutes, we've got 480 pages of statutes that tell them they can't work together. We've got the statutes as barriers to allowing people to work together. So we change that. We bring those together in the right fashion with these agencies. Now they are able to sit down, and instead of having this conflict and these barriers, now they can cooperate. Now they can achieve together what they couldn't do separately and, in my view, it will be one of the major changes that I've ever seen, that any of us in the Legislature will ever see in state government. This is a big deal. This is a big bill. It's half the state employees. It's about half of the state budget when you take the university out of it. It is the major bulk, the backbone of state government, and it is the backbone of the kind of services that we provide to people across the state of Nebraska who are in need, and that need can stretch from those who are very young, are children, or all the way to those who are elderly and in need of a nursing home. That's who we cover, just about anybody in the state. Now we'll be able to, with this legislation, go much farther, take every dollar and stretch it, and I think, in my view, be able to meet the federal changes, being able to meet the needs of the local families and communities, and do it in a better fashion. So, again, there's a lot of work that has gone into this. My thanks to all those who have, and I hope for your support in advancing the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN PRESIDING

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Wesely. You've heard Senator Wesely's closing. The issue before the body is the advancement of LB 1044 to E & R Initial. Those in favor please vote aye, those opposed no. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 33 ayes, 1 nay, Mr. President, on the advancement of 1044.

SENATOR COORDSEN: The bill is advanced. Items for the record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, your Committee on Enrollment and Review respectfully reports they've carefully examined and engrossed