

March 11, 1996

LB 1044

amendment this morning is by Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator, I have FA488 found on page 1054 in front of me.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Bernard-Stevens to open on his amendment.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. To review where we were on 1044 when we last visited the bill, Senator Dierks had offered an amendment that the body supported that took out the confidentiality portion and put in an interim study. The concern that I had was that people in the departments, when they are coming together and they do have different sets of information, would they be comfortable in sharing that information to accomplish the goal of 1044 or would they simply say, in certain circumstances, we don't know if we can give this information or not; we'll have to...let's wait for the interim study committee to come through and then we'll look and see what we're going to do. In order to allow it to work better, the amendment says, "Nothing in the Nebraska Partnership for Health and Human Services Act shall be construed to prohibit the sharing of information among programs delivering services to individuals in order to provide coordinated services to such individuals." This amendment simply makes sure that the departments know they can work together, they can find...use the information to find the best coordinated services for the client. and, of course, the other portion of it, that unless specifically prohibited by statute on confidentiality, those areas certainly would not be given for this statutory...we are denied from doing so. It clarifies that. It still keeps the interim study. I would urge your support.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Wesely. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, and members. Senator Bernard-Stevens, did your amendment get into the Journal?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I believe so. I missed the Clerk when he said what page it was. If I can ask the Clerk for that page number.