

of health and human services. But LB 1044 cannot work without eventually taking the steps envisioned in LB 1059. And the reason is that at the state level with the state agencies, all of them have infrastructures that exist across the state of Nebraska with a varying number of regional systems that deliver the actual services that these state agencies are responsible for. And they do not have similar boundaries. In most cases they do not have common administrative structures, they do not have common office spaces or in other ways end up cooperatively working together. If we are to bring together at the state level health and human services, we must take the next step eventually to take, at the regional level and the delivery of the services, a similar type of step. And that's the concept of LB 1059. Again, the committee amendments, and that's what we're focusing on here, deal with some of the concerns expressed during the hearing. I would be happy to answer any questions you have about the committee amendments. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. You've heard the opening on the committee amendments. Senator Robak, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. Senator Wesely, could I ask you a question?

SENATOR WILL: Senator Wesely, would you respond?

SENATOR WESELY: Sure.

SENATOR ROBAK: You mentioned something, it is a safeguard in this bill, about funding for the counties, there is some safeguard for that, for the elected officials. What was that again?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, in the committee amendments we talk about the fact that nothing in the bill prohibits the counties of the regions from voluntarily organizing to deliver services or contribute to the funding of these services.

SENATOR ROBAK: Voluntarily, what would that be?

SENATOR WESELY: Well, that would be at their discretion.