

people involved, county commissioners, and so on. The...one letter that was from the CEO of the Mid Nebraska Individual Services, and he's quite concerned that they would have lost that local control. But I probably will not, although I've kept my...I'm trying to keep my mind open on it, I probably won't even support the bill as it's written. But I do think this is a good amendment and I will intend to support this amendment because it does provide for that local input which I think is extremely important when we're dealing with this, with this bunch of...or with this class of people because I feel you get too far away from the problem and you won't, you don't know what the problem is, whereas in, locally, as I visited with my county commissioners two weeks ago, they really have a fear of losing that in our county and in our regions. So I will support this amendment.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Fisher. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I, too, rise in support of the Chambers amendment. I've discussed it with him and I, I see no problem with it. But I would like to respond again to a few of the comments that were made. First off, Senator Fisher, you talk about your region and the need for local control, how much better that is and how much we would lose if that would change. Well, your region is the one that got in such financial chaos and other problems that we ended up having to have the state Department of Public Institutions take over Region III back in 1993. That's local control, but it's also local mismanagement. It's also the same region that Senator McKenzie and Senator Bohlke had to have legislation in because they were having mentally retarded individuals working with lead weights, exposed to lead weights that led to a higher concentration in their blood count of lead that was, anybody would say would be a safe, safety problem for them, and currently some changes are occurring because the Department of Public Institutions intervened. There are other problems that I could go into. I don't want to because I'm not here to bash on the regions and the counties. They have, in many cases, done the very best that they can under the circumstances. But I don't think you can argue that the current system is the model we necessarily want to follow down the line. There are examples of excellent services and tremendous people, that's clearly the case, and across the state there are many more good examples than bad. But there are problems, there are serious problems,