

Department have. And then after you work all through that, finally you get down to the community. The idea that's being expressed through LB 1044 is to get our act together at the state level, to get those agencies brought together. But even when you do that, you still have the infrastructure, regional support, that is malfunctioning, so you don't really accomplish the goal of having a united system brought together to serve the health and human service needs of the state of Nebraska until you take this next step. Those involved with the system will all acknowledge that, in my view. So the next step you have, and the next chart you have, shows that you have the three state agencies, you have them working together and then you have the regional offices out there. You no longer have these regional governing boards with county board members who are paying a minuscule amount of the actual cost involved, controlling the staffing and the policies of those regions. Instead, you have this one unified system leading on down to the community. And that, I think, will lead to efficiencies and cost saving and I think better services. You have another chart that goes through some of the governing board information. You have another chart that then shows the decision-making process. When we have the Department of Health and Human Services hopefully in place at some point, and they decide they want to move forward in a certain fashion, there are so many hoops that will have to be jumped through still to actually ultimately make the changes. You will have a very difficult time accomplishing the goals involved. Administrative structure is a difficult issue. There isn't a big broad constituency for there. There is a constituency within the bureaucracy to maintain the status quo. The calls and letters you have opposing change, I understand. I understand the temptation to respond to those and be affirmative in reacting to those, but I'm going to ask you to rise up above that and recognize the broader public concern that there is for a system that changes and reflects the demands that people are placing upon us that we have the best services available to people and we do it as cost effectively as possible. That's what this bill can provide. That's what I hope you will recognize in the legislation and support. If there are any further questions, I'd be happy to answer them. I think I've covered, I think, most of the concerns that have been expressed. I know there are those that continue to maintain concern about this but, again, if your concern is for the services delivered, I think this bill will improve the chances for good services. If you're concerned about the expenditures of money and reducing