

April 1, 1996

LB 1044, 1059

different places, different boundaries, have different control mechanisms, different funding mechanisms. The counties have to kick in, in some of these cases, to varying degrees and the differences in each of those leads to a very cumbersome system. So at the top you have the state pulling itself together and in the middle you have these regional structures, not pulling themselves together, and then locally into the communities. Our hope is to bring the communities and bring them together. But you can't get from here to there without going through that middle part, that middle management problem that we have with the regional structure that we have in place. As long as you allow a system where the counties are paying two to eight percent of the cost, but then controlling the hiring and firing of the administrators of these programs and controlling the decisions about the programs, you are going to have difficulty pulling the pieces of this system together. If in fact the goal, when we passed 1044 was to allow throughout the state of Nebraska, a very streamlined administrative structure that then allowed dispersed across the state, the ability to step in and get services and not have to be shuttled around from one office to the next, answering questions over and over from one case worker to the next. If that is what we wanted to accomplish, we wanted to change that, it is going to be very tough to do without the adoption of this bill. I would like to ask your support for the amendment. Again, there is the \$7 million we're talking about with the Wehrbein amendment will be delayed three years and when it is finally adopted, hopefully, it will be less tax burden on the counties, less property taxes in the state and, at the same time, the ability to pull a system together that sorely needs to be pulled together. With that, I ask for your adoption of the amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. The question before you is the adoption of the Wesely amendment to LB 1059. All those in favor vote aye, all those opposed vote nay. Please record.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of Senator Wesely's amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Wesely amendment is adopted.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Is there any discussion or further discussion