

April 1, 1996

LB 1044, 1059

on the advancement of LB 1059? Seeing nothing further, Senator Wesely to close on the advancement of the bill.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President. I would ask for a call of the house.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: There has been a request for a call of the house. All those in favor vote aye, all those opposed vote nay. Please record.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays to place the house under call.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The house is under call. Will senators please return to their seats. Will all unauthorized personnel please leave the floor. Senators please check in. Senator Wesely, you may proceed.

SENATOR WESELY: Madam President and member, I do understand this is a complex issue and I know it is not easy to follow through and I know I probably haven't given the best explanation. I have tried as best I can, it is a complex issue. When you talk about Health and Human Services the system is complex. Senator Hillman just picked out one piece of it when she talked about the effort to try and get mental health services in just her region of the state in the panhandle, and the different forces that have come to bear on that. This is not an easy issue. This is \$1.4 billion that we spend in this state on health and human services. We took a giant first step to bring the state agencies together. That will help us, I think, to try and get the pieces of this to fit together in a puzzle that we can see the kind of picture we will, I think, appreciate. But the problem is, the problem is, the rest of the story is, as I mentioned just a minute ago, is there is a whole infrastructure of offices and delivery sites and regional governing boards and other types of boards and staffing and all of that is left untouched by that passage of LB 1044. This is delayed three years because in the discussion of redesigning the system, we need to know the question of whether or not the counties are going to continue to have a controlling influence, control over the hiring and firing of the staff at the regional level despite the small amount of money that is paid into the system, the two to eight percent, or whether or not that question remains without an answer. I think, as we go forward with the teams to work together to come up with a solution to