

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I rise in support of the Withem amendment and I, for one, would have no problem with Senator Chambers being a part of the study. I think that this does, in fact, address a number of concerns that we have started to look at previously. In the study that we did with the property tax relief measures, we did look at the question of county responsibility in Health and Human Services where we had required responsibilities, required mandates that we hadn't funded. Among those included a county payment for services provided at the regional centers, through the Beatrice State Developmental Center, the indigent care, the general assistance. These are all mandates that are unfunded by the state and placed upon the counties and so that was part of what was included in LB 1059, as we tried to start that process rolling. So this effort will follow on the work that we began and I believe our committee would be very interested in pursuing it further and I would look forward to working with the other committees on this issue. Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Bromm.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I would like, Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'd like to ask Senator Withem a couple of questions.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Withem.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Withem, in the past when task forces would be set up, wouldn't we often assign the selection of members to the Executive Board and we would even say that members could recommend names or people could express a wish to be on the task force?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Chambers, I can respond from my perspective on that. I'd like to make it very clear before I do, however, that this language was originated from the original previous Bromm-Janssen amendment, so any rationale as to why it