

state taking over Health and Human Services, would have had much of the money going into Douglas County and also to Lancaster County, so it would have been advantageous to those two counties. This bill is disadvantageous to those two counties, and so the thinking was that in some ways things balance out. But the way the package has moved forward, those elements that were of particular advantage to the urban areas have not succeeded while this remains on the agenda. So that had me concerned. It had me concerned that we would...we would pass this bill, though it doesn't take effect for two years, and have to follow up next year and the following year for those other bills that would be of advantage to perhaps the more urban setting. And so my thought was to suggest that we not pass this bill this year and to come back with it as part of a package next year that I...that is actually what prompted the discussion on my part. But I also wanted to note that as I thought about that further, I want to take a moment to praise the Legislature for the way that we've handled so many of these issues, and particularly LB 1059 because, as we talked about that bill and the attempt to change how we provide Health and Human Services in our state, all along I thought at some point we would get into a fight between urban and rural because the largest advantage in the terms of the funding under that proposal would come for primarily Douglas County but also to Lancaster County. But you know, in all the debate about LB 1059, there was never really an argument or fight or even a discussion about that issue. Instead of looking at the readouts about who gains and loses monetarily on the fiscal end of it, instead of that sort of a fight which we get into so often on state aid, we talked about the actual issue that needed to be talked about--efficiency in government and the structure of services that we need to have. And I think it's a real compliment to this Legislature, at least in that instance and that issue, that we took the road to discuss policy and policy implications versus some of the fiscal considerations. So I'm suggesting that I would like to try and emulate you as well on this point and in a...and I want to listen to Senator Warner and his comments about the bill and the discussion about some of these concerns. And if the formula and if the effort under this bill is advantageous to the state as a whole, the fact that Lincoln and Omaha lose revenues is something that I think we need to accept in this case if the overall state benefit is there. But at the same time, I want to note that when issues come in the future that are advantageous more to urban versus rural, I hope