

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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representatives in Washington. Those certainly need to continue. But that was new information I thought each of you needed to hear and...as we decide the direction we're going to go, and I think just adds to the necessity to clearly analyze, look at this, rebuild this as we get to Select File and have those ongoing conversations with the representatives in Washington. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. (Visitors introduced.) Discussion on the Brown amendment? Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I want to make it clear what my position is. I do not like LB 637 in any form. Senator Wehrbein, my intent is not to help the bill get to Select File for the purpose of rewriting LB 637. My intent is to try to maintain what Nebraska has as a system now. That's what I'm interested in doing. Oversimplifying what Senator Janssen is bringing to us, there may be the possibility, under existing federal law to link together the programs available in the counties so that there would not be a dismantling of what is working now, the concentrating in the hands of HHS all of this program, there would still be local involvement. There would be a way for a woman or a man, as the case might be, to go to his or her local entity to resolve problems that may crop up. I would like to see Senator Brown's amendment defeated. I would like to see Senator Bohlke's amendment adopted. Then, as I've told Senator Brown and I've said it on the mike, I will not impede the movement of the amended 637 to Select File. And I will keep my eyes and my mind open and assist in any way that I can to see that we have an effort undertaken to either obtain a waiver or have it established that, pursuant to the provisions that Senator Janssen discovered in the law, the federal law, we can maintain as much of the existing system in Nebraska that we have. That's what I'm looking at, not trying to rewrite LB 637, because this is one of those situation where I believe you cannot bring a clean thing out of an unclean thing. We have to get rid of it, and that's what we're doing step by step. I can understand if Senator Wehrbein has not followed very closely all of the twists and turns in the discussions of this bill, so it may not be clear what is being undertaken. But I want to make it clear