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SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I'm not certain that I agree with Senator Wickersham's premise that there has to be a limitation on advocacy groups. I think if each group can make its case then it ought to be allowed to exist. One of the things that you have to remember is that Health and Human Services has 5,800 employees and it is very difficult to have a focus on one little group over here. It is...it is very difficult. And I don't necessarily accept the premise that advocacy groups are bad. I've seen advocacy groups at work who to...who do very, very good things for their special populations, so I...I couldn't let that moment go by without saying don't necessarily buy into that argument. It's...I think it needs to be taken on a case-by-case basis, and you have to look at this case as its own special...special situation and vote accordingly. With that, I would turn the rest of my time back to the Chair.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. And Senator Beutler may say something about this too, but, Senator Wickersham, this is not new money. This money is there now. All we are doing is transferring the money. We are not creating any new General Funds, and Senator Wehrbein went through that and made that clear. But the other thing, when you talk...if we're going to talk a little bit about advocacy agencies, I will mention over the years we do have the...the Indian Commission, we have the Mexican-American Commission, and we have the Women's Commission. I'm going to mention the Mexican-American in particular right now because that's a very, very small budget and over the years there have been senators who come in here and think they make a big splash and get rid of all the advocacy agencies, and they would save about \$300,000, because those commissions have very small budgets. But right now in the state of Nebraska, with the influx of Hispanics and Latinos into our population, that Mexican-American Commission is very important. They are filling a role that is strongly needed. So the advocacy commissions are very important. I see the Blind Commission as an advocacy and support and administration...and