

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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March 16, 2000 LB 352

opened, that HHSS is able to claim an additional \$681,000 in federal funds for Nebraska for services rendered. That is an offset. That \$681,000 will have to be replaced. In addition, and I don't know the reason for this, this I'm reading, it would take an additional \$170,392 in state funds to continue the federal match in an independent commission structure. So there is more money here, but I...that aside, being mere money, mere filthy lucre, I would emphasize that this is a service group. It is not an advocacy group. Seven people came in and said they thought it was a good idea and, of course, there's a rule that we can't have any bad ideas on this floor. But aside from saying that they could do it better or they could do it...they could provide services faster, I...they didn't say how. They didn't offer a pro forma as to how they would go about this, a structure, it's just that we can do it better. I think that we cannot in this body start to tear out chunks of the government and set it up independently because a relatively few people, less than one-tenth of one percent of all the people that are served now, say that they want to change. If the services have been so bad, they have not complained of them. Now is the service perfect? I doubt it. Can it be made better? Probably. How do they do that? Among other things, they can come to their representatives with specifics, not generalities, not things that are designed to appeal to us and appeal to our sympathies, which I'm sure every one of us has. This is a chance to vote for the blind and the visually-impaired, where this is not a vote against the blind. "IPing" this bill is a vote for the blind, for a continuation of the services that they have had for decades, that they should continue to have and should continue to be better, instead of going off on an uncharted course. Thank you.

SPEAKER - KRISTENSEN: You've heard the closing. The question before the body is, shall LB 352 be infinitely postponed? All those in favor...there's been a request for a roll call vote by Senator Crosby. Mr. Clerk, please read the roll.

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken, Legislative Journal pages 1146-1147.) 5 ayes, 32 nays on the motion to indefinitely postpone.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: The motion fails. I raise the call. We're