

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 14, 2003

LB 407

other clinics that are in the mix here in Nebraska? I'm more than happy and willing to undergo a study that will introduce a bill next year and look at this more thoroughly when we have all information, all of how the funding goes on. The situation, the PCS out in Scottsbluff also gets some block grants that, frankly, the two centers in Omaha do not get, and so we need to look at that entire mix, how the funding is, how it's to be handled, and then we can come up I think with a determination that will be much more equitable to all, to Columbus, to Lincoln, to anyone else who comes along. I think Grand Island has thought some time about also establishing a federally qualified health clinic, but until then I just think it is improper at this time to take these dollars and set them aside without first doing a complete study on how we're going to fund these in the future. With that, I'll return the rest of my time back to the Chair.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I do want to, I guess, ask for more information suggesting that Panhandle Community Services gets block grants, therefore there are other access to dollars, I mean it's not that simple. I mean, that's like saying two people...or one person has two jobs and, because they get income from one, they shouldn't get income from another. The fact is the need is there. It's very real and we have the opportunity to make an inequitable situation a little more equitable. And this funding doesn't go on forever, and I'm more than happy to make that clear; that we can adopt this amendment as a temporary nature for making an inequitable situation more equitable and then study it, rather than maintaining a very inequitable situation and then studying it and then maybe coming up with something better but not necessarily. So I think that we can do the right thing here, and that is to adopt FA1360 and AM1884, and move on and help out some folks who need the help, rather than just turning our deaf ear to a situation of people in need. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Byars, on FA1360.