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LB 425

direct appropriation, I've never...I've been here eight years, and I've never had one of these groups come and ask for assistance for this purpose. But maybe now that they know there's some money floating around out there, they might like to ask for it. But with...in the absence of the input from the service providers on this, other than the provider from...that the department presented from Pennsylvania, it's kind of a mess. And so I don't really care about what the political motivation was. I'm concerned about how this amendment is written, and how it can be administered without being in conflict...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...with existing statute.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Thompson. The issue the body discussing is the amendment to the Appropriations Committee, AM1374 to LB 425. On with discussion. Senator Foley, followed by Senator Preister and eight others.

SENATOR FOLEY: Thank you again, Mr. President. Let me...I've taken some notes here on some of the issues that people are raising that need to be addressed. Senator Thompson is raising some interesting questions and some points regarding what is permissible with TANF funding. And again, I refer back to the document that I cited earlier. This is a document from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which provides that each state must submit a plan to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, outlining what we're going to do with the money. And there's enormous flexibility that the department allows in the state's uses of these funds. And these funds, these TANF dollars, are being used for this very purpose in other states. So it's not that the TANF program in any way prohibits our using these dollars to assist pregnant women. That's not the case. Other states are doing it. It's well within the parameters of the TANF program, and it would be permissible here in Nebraska. There are other technical issues regarding what a grantee could do and could not do. Those are contractual issues. When a winning grant is selected by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, HHS Nebraska will have to enter into a contract with the provider. And there