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

March 14, 2006 LB 1060

He's going to tie us up the rest of the session. He's already told us that. He says that what I've done is irregular or flawed or whatever. Not so. This is conventional practice. You introduce a bill, the bill is referred to a committee, you have a public hearing, you advance your bill, and you are offered as an amendment to another bill if it's germane. All those things happened. Senator Kruse says I'm changing statute by way of an amendment, not changing appropriations level. This program is not in statute. This program exists only in budget language. That's the only place you'll find it. So this is the most appropriate place to address the program. It's only existed in budget language all these years. It's never existed separately in statute. And it's been refined over the years through other offerings of language to amend the existing intent language. It's evolved over the years, and I'm just doing what's been done over all those years, through the very conventional process. Senator Brown is trying to focus in on the sentence that says that the department may contract with providers who offer some but not all the services, but she doesn't read the rest of the sentence to you. It says, if necessary to provide for the availability of such services. You may have a potential provider out there in rural Nebraska who says, look, we can do Pap smears and we can do chlamydia tests, but we can't do one of those other things on that list. Fine. We want to pull them into this program so we can at least get that much done in rural Nebraska. Let's at least get that much done. And the reality is, that's what this program is really all about. You see a long list of services there. In reality, if you look at the dollars -- and I have; I've studied this -- if you look at where the money is really spent, it's spent on Pap smears, chlamydia tests, and antibiotics to deal with those who test positive for chlamydia. That's where the money is being spent. And there are providers out there who can do that much, but they might not be able to do some of the more technical things if they're in a rural...a remote location. Let's pull them into this process and at least get that much service done, so we can have a broad range of services statewide. I offered this amendment through conventional channels, all the proper procedures. You've adopted my amendment with an overwhelming vote, and now we've got sour grapes. And they're entitled to do They're using...they're playing within the rules. But that.