

Charles Lane who is the Director of the Community Action Program in Omaha and I asked him what his opinion on the subject was and he said it was a good thing. So I put together this piece of legislation and I carried it to the Public Health and Welfare Committee and it was advanced to the floor and it has now been advanced to, from General File to Select File but I got a loose cannon on the deck and that loose cannon is Senator Sam Cullan who is responding to a loose cannon up in his legislative district and the truth of the matter is that is not a good way to make legislation. What you do is you look at the issue on its merits and you move it forward and you don't simply play get even politics. It is for that reason I would ask you to simply repudiate Senator Cullan's motion which is to bracket the bill until next year. Let's take a look at the bill on its merits and if you don't care for the bill you can vote against it. It you think the bill is a meritorious bill, which I do, then you can support it. There is no sense in penalizing the Community Action Program that operates in your district, its staff, its personnel and its constituent community simply because Senator Cullan has a problem with an Executive Director of a Community Action Program in his district.

PRESIDENT: The Chair wants to announce, while the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business I propose to sign and do sign LB 618, 254A and LB 254. The Chair recognizes Senator Warner. Senator Warner, do you wish to speak on the Cullan motion?

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I have a concern with 490 and I will use this opportunity to speak on it and I would support holding it up for this reason, and that is the concern I have that the legislation will prevent future sessions of the Legislature in the appropriating process to review how these block grants are used. The money by the law, or by the bill, if it became law, would require that the full 95% would only be available for the community services block grant, would only be available to the Community Action Programs. Under the federal guidelines there are other uses that could be used, a portion of the funds, such as the Department of Aging, the Nebraska Senior Citizens Council, Nebraska Association of Farm Workers and others would be eligible to receive a portion of the community services block grant and 490 prevents those kinds of transfers from being even considered in the future. So I would support holding it up or I would support a motion to strike the requirement that these funds can only go for this purpose and only again to provide the kind of flexibility that I think future sessions may need or may want to have. So I would again support holding up