

February 12, 1996 LB 1044

sitting under the south balcony. Will you all stand and be recognized, please. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Yes, Madam Speaker, members, 1044 is something that I think is extremely important and is a way that state government can sit back, take a look and see where is it that we need to go in the future. And this is a tremendously good starting point. I support 1044, have since Senator...before it was even a...before it was 1044. Lieutenant Governor Robak was kind enough to invite me into a few meetings, over two years ago, when they first started putting state agencies together to look at how they could do a better job, do away with duplication, follow the funding streams, all those things that we currently...that we've been talking about, and what would be some sort of direction, some parameters that we could work within to get that done. It's been a long time coming. This isn't something that just happened over one interim and a short period of time. This has been going at least over a two-year period very seriously. The agencies have changed as to who should participate and who should be a part of the starting point. To me the bottom line is what 1044 does, and I know a lot of you have some concerns. It gives us a starting point where it is we need to start, and it says where do we want to be when it's over. Now there's a tremendous amount of work that needs to be done in between there, and it will be done on this floor, it will be done in local regional groups across the state. I'll tell you that in the Panhandle we have had different representation to talk about 1044 and the Nebraska Partnership Project for quite some time. We have those agencies on a regional level that are working right now to say how could we best, in the Panhandle, put these five agencies together to offer the kind of services, to have the service delivery system that we think is important in the western part of Nebraska. One of the things we're always concerned about when it comes to state agencies and servicing in "outstate" or "greater Nebraska", however you care to refer to it, is how those services and resources are distributed across the state. We have a real fear when it comes to population and that the resources are doled out on a per capita basis. One of the things that I think can work well and work very well under 1044 is that you will have those regions coming in and saying to the state, this is how it could best work for us; these are some of the providers that we have; this is how it would work best; this