

April 16, 1981

LB 506

SENATOR CULLAN: So the Department of Health is making this determination. I would object. I think that they ought to be limited to smoking related diseases and cancer because that is where a great deal of research needs to be accomplished.

SENATOR DWORAK: Very good and thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. Speaker, a question of Senator Warner if he would respond please?

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Warner.

SENATOR STONEY: I will make a general statement while Senator Warner is talking on the telephone. I just rise to say that conceptually I certainly agree with the intent of LB 506 and will be supporting its passage but I do have some questions of Senator Warner if he would respond.

SENATOR WARNER: Yes.

SENATOR STONEY: Senator Warner, unfortunately I am a little handicapped in not having the amendment before me to review it in its entirety. The question that I have initially is that evidently you had some difficulty with the committee that was being created which would have had the responsibility of providing these grants and contracts, is that correct?

SENATOR WARNER: I had two reservations about the bill as it was before us. You are correct that one of them I have a reluctance to see another board established, and as established there had significant freedom from legislative oversight in what was done. Secondly the bill as drafted also would have permitted them to make grants and awards to a variety of nonprofit private organizations that their activity would be unrelated to research. It would have been, I think, they used education, prevention, I am not sure what all that included or was intended to include but it seemed to me to be exceedingly broad.

SENATOR STONEY: Senator Warner, I had a little difficulty with some of those categories that had been defined also but I am wondering if you feel that the Department of Health, if we are providing them with the opportunity to award these grants and contracts if they would have the expertise within the Department that this committee that was going to be formed under this bill would have had relative