

would like to ask Senator Warner a question or two. Senator Warner, and for those who might be following this, it would be item number six under C on the sheet that itemizes where the cuts are occurring, what will be the impact, what is likely to result if this cut is not restored?

SENATOR WARNER: The indication by the department would be that the, as has been pointed out, that there would be some number of current county offices closed. The number that was used was 46 as a potential list from which those cuts would come and the other impact was in the program in which the NCCY, Nebraska Children and Youth here in Lincoln, we combined those two programs so they can work together. The savings would be accomplished in NCCY, or the reduction would be accomplished by...it was passed out, but it was a combination of placements perhaps somewhere other than in NCCY which would be essentially foster care home.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Is it assured that those placements will occur? Or are you...

SENATOR WARNER: This is what they indicated at the hearing, would be the likely place for it to be done. Now, I would suggest to you that one of the things that came up at the hearing was for reviewing some of those state law but optional federal services as an alternative and I would anticipate, since these cuts would not take effect in the...that is the reductions would probably not take effect prior to February 1, I would anticipate early in the next session we will be looking at legislation that might address some of those optional services that are currently provided as has been done before. And I'm not talking about ADC, unborn or any of those programs, you know, which those optional Medicaid programs are and that is a viable option to reducing.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, let me ask you this now. Do you have to reason to question whether or not the offices in the rural areas will, in fact, close? Do you think they will be closed?

SENATOR WARNER: No, there is no doubt in my mind, if the cut is done, that some portion and probably a substantial portion of those 46 may be closed, but we also have to keep in mind that some of them now have one or two-day openings in any event but...and the rationale is the Department of Labor has 35 statewide offices. There is 100 in Social Services, somewhat of a parallel in terms of ability of people to make contact for