

from Washington and they're really not going to come from Lincoln, they're going to come from the small towns and communities that are across the State of Nebraska working together and recognize that they have more to gain in common than there is to try to fight alone the battles that they have to fight. I think, clearly, we need to regionalize the health delivery system of this state. We need to understand that it may be impossible to have a doctor in every town but if we have towns working together on a rotational basis, we can have doctors working together to cover areas so that one doctor doesn't have to feel they've got to be tied down to a community forever, that they can end up taking off a weekend or a week for a vacation and working together they can cover each other's needs. So regionalization of health care and local control of a planning system is the fundamental part of LB 827. As part of that, we also set up, as we did with a bill last year, a regionally based public health service delivery system, and we passed legislation last year to do that. We recognized we...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...have no public health services statewide in this...in Nebraska and we did set up that service system. This would take and fund that service system so that we could have immunizations, environmental health. We could have public health nurses and we could do the other things that we don't have in most of this state so that we can provide for the needs of citizens and in a way that's cost-effective. One of the things that we also have wrong with our health care system is we spend a lot of money on the back end of the expensive side, high tech, high cost side of health care. We need to redirect monies into the preventive side of health care into how we can head off costs, how we can help individuals to save money to maintain their health and I think everybody wins in that scenario. My time is about up but my hope is that we can continue to talk about the overall need for reform of the health care system and how this bill will accomplish that.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Mr. Clerk, an amendment to the committee amendments?

ASSISTANT CLERK: Madam President, Senators Byars and Dierks would move to amend the committee amendments. That's found on page 2148 of the Journal.