

April 15, 1994 LR 502

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Warner would move to amend the resolution. (FA592 appears on page 2138 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I've offered an amendment in part, Senator Wesely, to solicit a meaning of a word, but in any event I'm more comfortable. Frequently I hear the line as is in the opening line of the resolution whereas all Nebraskans have a right. The amendment I set up is to the effect that all Nebraskans should have reasonable expectation of quality health care. The problem I...the reason I'm raising the question is if the word right means desirable or goal, that's one thing, but if right means a legal right, a constitutional right, then I think we're portraying an implication that I don't think is there and I know I hear the word right frequently and it concerns me that it portrays a meaning to a lot of citizens that perhaps is not really accurate. But I do believe they have a reasonable expectation that these various things, and that's what my amendment does. And if you want to comment on how you interpret the word right or if this wording is acceptable.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wesely. I interpret this, Senator Warner, as yielding part of his time to you.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Senator Warner, no, there would be no implication of a legal or constitutional right. It's more in terms of like a humanitarian right that we...and we seem to recognize that now with the attempt to try and provide health care for people as a humane basis. That's how I would interpret it.

SENATOR WARNER: Well I'm not going to pursue it very long. I'd let the motion go for a vote because I...it seems to me a reasonable expectation is really what we can portray to citizens. I just have a concern with the word right and if others wish to speak, they may. I'll waive any closing.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Warner. Further discussion on the Warner amendment? Closing, Senator Warner? Closing has been waived. The question is the adoption of the Warner amendment to the Wesely resolution. Record, Mr. Clerk.

13868