

objection, this amendment should be adopted. There were 29 votes to revive the bill itself, LB 63. I hope there can be found 25 who will attach this amendment to LB 59.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, I really want to thank and commend Senator Chambers for his initiative and leadership in trying to reinsert the intent of LB 63 into LB 59. I was deeply disappointed and as a freshman I guess I should expect these things to happen as frequently as they have in losing LB 63 on the floor of the Legislature. I felt that it was a very meritorious bill, did a lot for the state of Nebraska, and it was very unfortunate that we weren't able to revive it with the 29 votes that we had for reconsideration. However, here we have another opportunity to reconsider what I consider to be a very positive step in a means and an attempt to decrease mental retardation in the State of Nebraska...a very noble and I think worthwhile goal that we can all agree to. I had tons of material that was passed out to each and every one of you when we were reconsidering LB 63. Since that was never fulfilled and we haven't had a chance to fully debate some of the issues that were brought up when it was originally brought to General File, I have much material I could go through, but I don't know if that's particularly necessary. So let me go through the major points and try and make some of the key elements involved in this bill that I think make it a very worthwhile amendment to LB 59. First off, the Department of Health has identified the need for increased emphasis in education of developmental disabilities. There is a need for this legislation. I quote from the hearing on LB 63, Robin Sue Robinsky, who represented the Department of Health. She said the State Board of Health believes that education about mental retardation and other developmental disabilities is greatly needed in the school systems. The introduction of such education into the health curriculum will have a positive impact in two major areas... number one, prevention, and number two, public education. So there is a need, a very definite need in the State of Nebraska to establish health education dealing with mental retardation in this state. Another point is that regulations of the Department of Education do not require that instruction of mental health or developmental disabilities be included in health classes. This is a point that was raised by Senator Venditte. This point was followed up on my behalf, by my staff, and there are no rules and regulations from the Department of Education or the Department