

happen and I think we should take the responsibility as citizens to overlook some of these things. I'm not against what Senator Sieck is trying to do. I'm just trying to tell you what happens and why sometimes people are opposed to having these type units built in their particular community. These were elderly people that owned this house. They are elderly in that area, they had a peaceful neighborhood, they were quite upset that it had been "invaded" I guess would be a good word by this group. It is a difficult thing. It is a little bit like I told Senator Barrett, I like to use electricity but I really don't want any of their lines over my farm. So, it is a difficult thing to do. I'm not opposing it but I just want you to realize that I guess we owe something to those people that are willing to have this type of facility built in their neighborhood and perhaps they should have something to say about it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the legislature, I rise in support of the bill introduced by Senator Sieck, LB 525. I would like to try and clear up a few questions that were raised. First off Senator Kahle's concerns I think relate mostly to mental health facilities and this bill really is only applicable to the retarded and the physically handicapped. So, I think that some of those concerns are not really applicable to this bill in particular. The other point is that this bill applies only to group homes that are four to eight members residences, the term they usually use, so it does not apply to the larger group homes or to the smaller, it just applies to those four to eight member homes. I think that is very important. We are talking about the smaller group home. We are not talking about the larger ones, we are not forcing a larger home on any neighborhood or area. The other point is the whole focus of this bill is that we shouldn't have a concentration of these group homes, not within any one city, not within any one neighborhood. So that is why they have the limitations on population, and I think that is very appropriate for the State Legislature to take that step. We need to do that here. This is the body that has that responsibility. Then beyond that once the city has identified where these homes are going to be placed, within the city we should not concentrate within the neighborhood or an area those group homes that are established. The problem that gave rise to LB 525 is found in the City of Lincoln, which I represent a section of, and as a Lincoln senator I'll tell you that I support LB 525, the city council has considered this bill but has not taken any formal action. The feeling is that we do need to watch for the problem that we found in Lincoln which is the concentration in one area of the city of these group homes. That is not a good thing for the residents of these group homes and it is not good for the