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LB 647

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak to the Beutler amendment. As Senator Beutler indicated, part of the problem that we have identified with the Homestead Exemption is found here in Lincoln with Eastmont Towers and Gateway Manor. Well, Gateway Manor is in my district and I have been in contact with that group of citizens for quite some time concerning their problem, and as Senator Newell just pointed out, it is a question of equity. Their feeling is that as older citizens they are deserving of the tax relief that is available to their friends who own their homes and they find themselves in a similar situation, but because of the legal status of their residency they are not provided the tax relief they think everybody else has the right to and takes advantage of, and so I think it is a question of equity and fairness, and as an individual I used to...as a young person I used to work at Gateway Manor, as a matter of fact, and for those of you who don't know the facility, I can tell you that it is a well run facility and the individuals there, though, are not of the sort of economic status that they can afford the high property taxes that that facility has to pay and that they deserve the sort of tax relief that this amendment would provide to them. They need it and they deserve it, and on the question of equity I think this is a clear amendment that is in favor of more fairness. I would like to add that as Senator Newell pointed out, the dollars involved are not that great total, but to these individuals that would be benefited from this amendment, this relief would be greatly appreciated and most deserving and so I would certainly encourage your support for the Beutler amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Before we go to the next speaker, in the north balcony it is my pleasure to introduce twelve members of the College of Hair Design, and their instructor, Todd Taggart, from Lincoln, Nebraska. Would you stand up so we can welcome you? Where are you? Okay. Welcome to the Unicameral. Senator Dworak, do you wish to speak? Senator Fowler. Senator Marsh, you have spoken, right? Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Hello. Mr. President and members of the body, I would rise in support of the Beutler amendment. Some of you may have considered that I was going to rise to give the folks in the balcony a challenge, but I don't think I will. The Beutler amendment would cover two places that I know of in Omaha, one of which is Skyline Manor, one of which is the Masonic Manor, both of whom...both projects, rather, are projects that serve a real vital need in the