

the need. This talks about a head injury center. I have a young relative and Dan does too, as you know, who suffered a head injury and my niece suffered it four years ago. The therapy and rehabilitation for a head injury is so much different and so much more specialized than the average nursing home care and, as Chairman Wesely says, it does not impact the nursing homes. It simply gives the authorization needed for this new facility in north Omaha, at Immanuel, to become a reality and what a wonderful asset it is going to be for our state and for those people who need the care. I just want to attest to that and to affirm that I think it's tremendous that it is going to happen. So I think that Senator Johnson should not be concerned about his smaller towns because it has nothing to do with impacting those areas.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Dan Lynch, please, further discussion.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. Chairman, I was reluctant so, because it might appear to be self-serving, but nevertheless, it is important to mention so you'll understand. It does little good at all to mix and match, we call it I guess, in the business. Programs for rehabilitation are very demanding and I think very different. The need for rehabilitation for a head injury is awfully different from an MR as compared to a spinal bifida or cerebral palsy or mental illness and I think we have to recognize that. And what this bill does is provide us the tools to permit where it is possible, not mandated where it isn't possible in some of the greater Nebraska areas, but where it is possible provide for us the language that we need to help those who can, in fact, provide this care and service, give them the tools to know the difference and be allowed to do that. We sometimes fool people who have loved ones who are affected into thinking they are being helped by simply building a building and throwing everybody into it, all of the vegetables into it, assuming they all can be taken care of and treated in the same way and by the same people. That is not true. And, in fact, in some cases it's almost a cruel hoax that we permit that to happen. This is, in fact, long overdue legislation. It can, in fact, provide us the understanding to know the difference and how to apply it and I hope that you will be sympathetic to this legislation. Thank you, Senator Crosby.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, sir. Any other discussion? Seeing none, Senator Wesely, would you like to close?