

a hearing handicap but these are students that sometimes are wheelchair bound. These are students that have other types of physical handicaps but the facilities that we have at Nebraska City and in Omaha are facilities that are best suited for many of these students. And I think that the small amount that the A bill carries that would require the state to pick up funding so that this option or this choice is there for every school district should they determine, should they determine, as Senator Baack's language in his amendment said, the most appropriate care plan, the most appropriate education plan for those students, then this is an option that is there. And I don't think that funding...not funding, at least to the tune of I think the A bill is approximately \$350,000, should be a barrier for that choice with regard to a school that is, for some students, a residential setting. For others, it's a day school just like any other school that they would go to. But they have facilities that are tailored to their needs, they have the equipment and the teachers that are specifically trained in these areas. I think it's vital that Nebraska fund at a 100 percent, not continue to lag behind in this area but to be on the forefront because we do have, clearly, two of the best schools in the country in this area. When we...when I served on the commission with Senator Remmers...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...we toured the schools in Iowa; we toured the schools in Kansas. We had interaction with the schools in Colorado, the states of South Dakota and North Dakota and Wyoming and Nebraska, clearly, was at least at the top and as good as...although we might have lacked some of the physical capabilities or some of the most latest technology, we, clearly, were at the top and could compete with any of those schools that other states offered. So I think to attach to that the funding that allows for these students the ability to make that choice for their school districts and their parents to have that is essential for us to do as a state. I would urge the body to advance LB 438 to E & R Initial. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Additional discussion on the advancement of the bill. Senator Nelson, followed by Senators Eeck and Morrissey.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I probably will be voting to move this bill at least one more time, but I