

worthy idea for him to bring before the body. So I would urge the passage of LB 438.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Morrissey, please. (Gavel.)

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Mr. Chairman, thank you, and members, I rise to support LB 438 simply because of one reason. I think by passing 438 we are eliminating barriers or a possible barrier to quality education for these handicapped students. Without this bill, we will continue the chance of denying one of these students a full quality education simply because you do have the possibility of having a financially strapped school district out there somewhere who will simply refuse to send their student to these schools because they cannot afford it. And that, to me, is wrong. I think these students deserve the best opportunity they can get. When I sat down and talked to the visually handicapped group, to a person, to a person, the older handicapped people had wished they had this opportunity to go to a school such as this, to mingle with their peers and also to mingle with the public in the situations that the school provides in Nebraska City. To prevent one student from missing this opportunity, I would urge support for LB 438.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Any other discussion? Seeing none, Senator Wehrbein, would you care to close on the advancement of the bill?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, briefly, I will close. I just want to say I don't think that we're necessarily setting a precedent here because we have got two established schools that have been in existence 120 years, or thereabouts. We just had a resolution this morning commemorating the 120th anniversary of the Nebraska School for the Deaf. So it is not new. It's something that we have had with us and has a proud legacy in both schools throughout the years in Nebraska so it is not something that is new. These are a different type of handicap, in my opinion, than some of the more serious handicaps that we have in our society today and these people that are involved in these two areas can be very useful citizens and these schools provide that type of background, that type of education that they can use. And I think that we should not shrink from this responsibility and we should give them every option that they should have, every option if that includes going to the residential school of either Omaha or Nebraska City, then that