

use of \$535,000 to open a new wing in Norfolk. And let me tell you why we would like to have that wing opened in Norfolk. We feel that this 34-bed wing is badly needed. And I just want to cite you a few examples that I have heard from some of the county attorneys and some of the county sheriffs in northeast Nebraska. And I understand it's also a problem in other parts of Nebraska too but they tell me that they get called out to these families, to these places and pick up a person but they have no place to take him because everything is full. And so I think we need to...I think we need to seriously consider this amendment. And I want to commend Senator Peterson for the work that he has done on this. We have met and he's met, numerous times, with DPI and still we resolved nothing. Senator Hannibal says, well, Omaha should take their patients to Hastings, but they don't, they take them to Norfolk and Norfolk is overflowing. So I just think we need to address this problem. The need is great and we need some money to open that new wing. Senator Hannibal also said that this is no additional new money and this is correct. What this would do is just transfer some of the money in their budget to open this wing. I feel that DPI does have the flexibility to open that new wing but it doesn't seem like we can get their attention. I understand that Hastings does have some openings, but would they take the people from northeast Nebraska? And so, at this time, I would urge you to adopt this amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Warner, please, followed by Senator Scofield.

SENATOR WARNER: Well, Mr. President and members of the Legislature, Senator Hannibal has indicated and will indicate more of the basis for the recommendation, and I can understand that it sounds more acceptable that we're shifting money from one area to another, I would like to put it a different way. We're cutting the money out of one program to fund another program. And the program for cutting the money out of is a program which is somewhat fuzzy in the sense of knowing exactly what it's going to cost but nevertheless there isn't any doubt about the fact that the state is going to have to expend a substantial level of funds for the evaluations of each of these individuals, as indicated by Senator Hannibal, and that then the money is to flow with wherever the appropriate service is to be offered or provided for that individual. And when we cut that amount it simply will mean that some people, I suspect, will not be able to be directed where the evaluation of their individual