

SENATOR WESELY: Withdraw.

SPEAKER BARRETT: It is withdrawn.

CLERK: The next amendment, Mr. President, is Senators Wesely, Morrissey, Smith and Coordsen, additional child...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Withdraw that one.

SPEAKER BARRETT: It is withdrawn.

CLERK: The next amendment, Mr. President, is by Senator Haberman.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Haberman. It is withdrawn.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Richard Peterson would move to amend.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Peterson.

SENATOR PETERSON: My goodness, we are really rolling here but I will...I am going to run my amendment. To me and to most of you in this body, this should be one of the most important votes outside of a couple of others this morning, Senator Lynch's amendment and that, that I think you will make today. Do you want to save lives? You have a chance here today to do so. I come before you today asking your support to help a number of people who are not being helped because we are ignoring the need for adding beds which are available at a Regional Center. These are people waiting to get in for mental health treatment or need a hospital for treatment who cannot be treated in Nebraska's community mental health system. Many are suicidal, and in recent weeks, I know of six attempts at one county. In a three week period, three out of six committed suicide. This is terrible. Are those lives worth 565,000? I think they are, if one of them could have been saved. Now if we can spend money for other things that are least important and what is more important than children and lives to start up a 34 bed ward that will help several hundred people in a year's time, I think we can do that. We cannot allow vacant facilities to remain vacant at Regional Centers when the needs of the mentally ill are so