

Legislature. We then worked and Senator Chambers put together this legislation, LB 465, to implement the follow-up to that intent language and now we have the bill before us this session, another year later. But clearly, when we passed the bill two years ago, it was intended that this follow, because what we found from our work on AIDS over the past few years is you need to encourage the testing, encourage the cooperation of these individuals, and as long as there is any threat, whatsoever, of discrimination, you simply don't have, in some cases, that cooperation. So this will remove that last barrier, that last concern that we had with the legislation we passed two years ago and complete the good work that we did at that time. Again, I commend the Legislature for the initiatives that we pursued and I think with this legislation we complete the job in fine fashion.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Any other discussion? Seeing none, Senator Chambers, to close.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, and members of the Legislature, I want to express appreciation to the Speaker for placing this on his priority list, and I do appreciate the comments that others have made. This is one of those areas where if people see those who represent them and who have been elected taking an enlightened position such as this, it may cause them to pause before they panic and do things that they might regret later. One thing I also wanted to mention is that during the hearing the Superintendent of the Kenesaw Public Schools had come down and he supported this legislation, and he discussed action taken in that community revolving around a little boy who did have AIDS, and when they had meetings and people were given information, there was not the hysteria, there were not people with picket signs saying, get this little child out of our schools, that he is going to contaminate our children. It brought a community together, and I don't know what has happened to the little boy since then, but at any rate, the community became an example of how I wish this matter would be handled if it arose any place else. At the time that it occurred, there was an article or two, but I want it into the record at every stage that I speak on this bill a recognition of how that community, a small rural community in a state like Nebraska showed how people can respond in a humane enlightened way to a situation that has terrorized a lot of people in a lot of other places. So I hope this bill will be advanced and, again, I appreciate the comments of those who spoke on it.