

in other states, not only in the Midwest but across the country, is the issue of whether or not there should be a collection fee for what they do. And to be quite honest with you, they talked about that just this past week and they, frankly, said well, we guess we don't need that. They have, I think, recognized the need for this system to provide the service to individuals who fall into these categories. With that, Mr. President, I will offer the amendment to the body. I'd be willing to answer any questions that members may have about how the system would work, the funding of it or any other areas. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Crosby, please, followed by Senator Haberman and then Senator Schmit.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I'm so pleased and it's a real privilege to support this bill this morning and pleased to see that Senator Hall has amended it into LB 240 and that you voted to suspend the rules so that could be done. You'll notice on the hearing sheet that nobody opposed the bill. The telephone association came in as a neutral. Everyone who testified was for the bill. I know of one instance in particular because I want to bring to your attention, and Senator Hall touched on this too, it's not just for hearing impaired people. It's people who have lost their ability to speak could also use this telephone mechanism. I know of one instance in particular, a young woman who had grave injuries in an automobile accident several years ago and along with that, so far her ability to articulate has not come back to her. It's an air problem or other related things from the injuries that she suffered, the nerve damage that she suffered. She uses her computer, she can type, she uses a voice pack to communicate but having a telephone mechanism like this would literally take away the walls and give her a freedom that she has not experienced this last several years. It would help her in furthering her education, it would help her to be employed in a different way and in a more meaningful way because she would be able to communicate by telephone. So I urge you this morning to vote for this to move onto...include it in this bill, in LB 240, and move it on to Select File. Senator Hall, if you need some more time you can have what I have left.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Haberman, please, followed by Senator Schmit.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the body, Senator