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LB 638

these issues, I felt it appropriate to put this amendment on simply to allow for more clearly in the statute that the buildings can be used for other purposes. That's basically the reason for the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Hall, do you wish to address this amendment?

SENATOR HALL: Yes, I do, Madam President. Thank you very much. Members, the amendment, as has been offered, does deal with the issue of the bill. I guess, at this point, I had my light on, since I'm only taking the balance of Senator Wehrbein's opening, since I co-sponsored this amendment, I would yield that to Senator Rasmussen at this point so she could explain the bill and then I will come back to the amendment. So I think there has got to be at least about six or seven minutes. I would give that to her, if she wants it to explain the substance of the bill because I think you need that before you address the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator...thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: I will do a few minutes and then if I don't quite cover it, I will turn it over to Senator Robinson. The basic intent of this bill is to look at our resources in this State of Nebraska and how we are addressing the needs for kids who have disabilities who may be in need of out-of-home placement or out-of-home programs. We have dealt with this in a couple of ways. Sometimes there are children who need out-of-home programs either for educational reasons or because of extraordinary demands upon the family and sometimes what we have done is found programs in states outside of Nebraska and we have placed children in those programs. At the same time that we are doing that, we have several out-of-home programs in the State of Nebraska that are underused. So what we are suggesting in this bill is that we step back and take a look at our resources and look at our needs and see if we might make better use of our resources in the state so that we can better address the needs of all of the children within the State of Nebraska. That's a brief summary and, Senator Robinson, if you want to add something else right now, otherwise I would like to respond to the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Rasmussen.