

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Madam President and members of the body, I just wanted to rise in support of the committee amendments. I think they help to clarify the focus and the intent of the bill and sort of got rid of some baggage, historical baggage, and give us an opportunity to start fresh with a clear analysis of our resources and our needs. And I would urge that the body support the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Rasmussen. Senator Schmit. Does anyone else wish to speak to the committee amendments? Seeing none, do you have closing, Senator Withem? Closing is waived. We will now vote on the adoption of the committee amendments. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The committee amendments are adopted. We will now have an opening on LB 638. Senator Rasmussen. Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Madam President and members of the body, I usually agree with Senator Hall. Did you hear that, Senator Hall? I usually agree with Senator Hall but he was talking about the main focus of the bill was the two residential schools but that was not the main focus of...as far as I was concerned. The reason I got involved with this bill, basically what it is we're looking at young people with disabilities that are being sent out of their home or out of their home, out-of-state placement for their education and so forth. Why was...why did I become interested in it? When I found out there is one young person in Omaha being sent to Texas for two years and three months, and listen to this, people, for \$500 a day; \$180,000 per year for two years and three months. That sort of whetted my appetite a little. And then there was a young man in a Class 1 school in my school district whose parents were just about ready to go to the district court to find some out-of-state placement for him. He was a child that could not be handled in his home. So with some help with some people we got him placed in Omaha in a residential setting and is now in a special ed program in Omaha. Those were the two things that got me interested in this bill. I agree with everything that Senator Hall said. I think we should look at the bricks and mortars and we should look at programs. I want to ask some rhetorical questions. One problem