

wrecking ball mentality and we're going to do away with these facilities because they're big facilities, they're no longer what they were intended to be, you fail to recognize what they have done over the years in terms of progressing in their programmatic approach to serving their clientele. You can't look at just the overall dollar issue and say, well, we spend too much per pupil. Sure, you look at how it's spent. You look to see if you can reduce those costs and provide the same services in a different setting. Absolutely, I endorse and support those kinds of approaches but you can't walk in and just say this is too much, we closed this down...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...we'll serve them someplace else because it happens to be cheaper. I don't think that's what 638 is about. That's why I'm supportive of it. But I am going to continue to take a look at how the bill progresses. I want to look at the amendment that Senator Wehrbein and I offered on Select File after talking to the introducers and going to continue to follow this approach because I think it is an appropriate one but it needs to be all encompassing, as Senator Robinson pointed out, because there are a myriad of areas in the state where we can do the same thing if we just coordinate the services that are out there amongst the departments as well as the service providers that we contract with and, first of all, our concern has to be the welfare of the clients that we serve, those being the citizens of this state. I would urge advancement of LB 638. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Madam President and members of the body, I agree with everything that Senator Hall has said. The intent here is to come up with appropriate programs for children and their families and if we can do that within the State of Nebraska for all of our children and their families, that's what we would like to accomplish. Yes, the placement in out-of-state programs has been extraordinary expensive but I want to make it real clear that the issue, as Senator Hall has mentioned, has not just simply been the fact that it's cost a lot of money. Those are children who have extraordinary needs and they have needed out-of-home placement and that has been most appropriate. And the question is whether or not for our money and for the resources that we have in the state we couldn't better organize