

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, I'd like to move for the adoption of the committee amendments. We've worked hard with the different interested parties in trying to reach a compromise, I think that we've done that with the adoption of the amendments. Move for their adoption.

SPEAKER BAACK: You've heard the closing on the committee amendments. We will now vote on the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. We're voting on the committee amendments. Have you all voted? Voting on the committee amendments. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BAACK: The committee amendments are adopted. We will go to the bill. Senator Wesely, would you like to open on the bill as amended.

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, thank you. Mr. Speaker, members, I've talked a bit about some of the concerns and how we've addressed those. Let me talk about the remainder of the bill and some of the main issues involved with it. As I said, we were the first state in the nation to move toward community based mental retardation services. With the passage of this legislation, we will also be on the cutting edge, once again, of services to not only the persons with mental retardation, but persons with developmental disabilities, again. What we're attempting to do is bring Nebraska up to the lead where it once was in this field. We were once considered the best in the nation. We've slipped. We are not considered the best in the nation. We are considered one of the better in the nation still, because so many states are so far behind us. We have had the advantage of time and experience, and not it's appropriate and proper that we review how far we've come, and how far we have yet to go. Where we feel we have left to go is in the idea of the recipients of these services, that is those persons with developmental disabilities, and their families having more of the control over the services to themselves, more impact and recognition of their concerns in the service delivery system, a look at the quality of life these people lead, and trying to enhance that quality of life, to make it as wonderful as possible for these individuals that have these disabilities. Now I want to commend, as Senator Byars did earlier, the work of the task force involved with