

and it develops into a problem that is truly in fact a serious one. But for those serious problems that do eventually develop, we do have programs, as I mentioned, in place that are there and will continue to serve those adults. So I see this as a very important and very positive piece of legislation to help those thousands and thousands of residents in nursing homes and other care facilities and I would ask for support for the amendment to the bill. Let me again emphasize that we've had cooperation from the different nursing home associations. The health care association did oppose the bill last session and we have been in communication with them and in the compromise I understand they support the legislation now. The various voluntary ombudsmen and advocates for nursing home residents have weighed in in support of the bill and the department itself is supporting the bill as well. And so we feel that we have something that can be mutually agreed to and supported by the various parties and would ask for your adoption of this amendment, and I again would be happy to answer questions.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Before we proceed to...with further debate I would like to call the senators' attention to the area under the north balcony. Senator Will, Eric Will would like to recognize Dr. Paul Paulman of Omaha who is serving as our doctor of the day. Would you please rise and be recognized. Welcome to the Chambers and thank you. Thank you. Mr. Clerk, do you have an announcement?

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Warner would like to have a meeting of Reference Committee at eleven-thirty, Reference Committee at eleven-thirty.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. I'll now recognize Senator Hefner followed by Senator Hillman. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Madam President and members of the Legislature, Senator Wesely, I believe I can support this but...this amendment, but I do need a couple questions answered for me, if you will. In northeast Nebraska we have a lot of nursing homes that have all the way from 40 to probably 70 beds in each home. How many volunteers would it take for them to work in these homes, or how often would they visit them?

SENATOR WESELY: Well it would depend on each local area and the areas on aging are spread throughout the state. This would not require this program, so your local area agency I believe