

February 10, 1992 LB 308, 671, 696

have these kinds of disabilities in the pipeline. A lot has happened already with the American's for Disabilities Act and, of course, with legislation that's been previously passed by the Legislature. We're grateful for the services that are provided and have been provided in the past. And we think that this legislation will provide us the information to understand what we've done in the past, and what we may need in the future. There is an A bill that will be coming up that provides for \$20,000 for a part-time staff within the Department of Health to accomplish the registry. And I tell you that now for fear that you might think an A bill is attached to this that could include, at this point in time, millions of dollars, and that's not true. The A bill will be considered next. With that, I'll try to answer any questions, and I want to thank those who cosponsored the legislation, and ask for your support.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Lynch. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do sign LB 671, and LB 696. Senator Crosby, on LB 308.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I can't say it's a real pleasure to talk about this bill because we all wish head injuries would go away. But I know that the Health and Human Services Committee, and Senator Lynch and others have been working on this bill for I think two years or more to refine it as to...so the hospitals and the medical profession doesn't feel that we are burdening them with extra records and so on. But I'd like to speak from personal experience with a head injury person, my niece. And if any of you happened to read Jim Flannery's story about Senator Kerrey, yesterday, in the World Herald, there was a picture of my niece there with the senator and his children when she was at Madonna in 1985. Kathy was the victim of an accident, an auto accident, and that was seven years ago, and she's now back in classes at the university. She still has not regained her powers of speech and can't walk because she lost a leg, and the head injury caused her tremendous problems for balance and all kinds of things that you and I take for granted every day, that we get up and move around, start talking, walking, breathing, all of these things are an effort for her. She has...her brain has rerouted, in a manner of speaking, some of the avenues that tell us what to do, and how to do them, and that are so automatic for us. So my point in bringing this to your attention is that if you'd look around, I mean even in your own family you may have someone. And as we have worked with Kathy over the years and learned more