

with DAS, if that was what was considered necessary. But I felt that it was appropriate to put it into this bill because I do strongly support this bill. I think it's something that we needed, and I do think this amendment is appropriate to this bill. So, with that, I'd answer any questions. Senator Hall may have some comments, too.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Discussion on the amendment to the amendment. Senator Wesely. Senator Hall, on the amendment to the amendment.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. I rise to support Senator Wehrbein's amendment. I was a cosponsor of the bill that he mentioned, or have been in the past, as it relates to the use of the facilities at both Nebraska City and Omaha. The proposal just makes economic sense in terms of making the best use of the facilities that are there. The issue with regard to the number of students that are at those facilities and the cost on a per pupil basis has been raised in the past. This is a proposal that, although does not solve that problem by any stretch of the imagination, does allow for, I think, a very useful purpose with regard to the space in those facilities. The numbers, in terms of pupils, has dwindled. There has been space available that, frankly, they have had organizations, individuals who have come forward and asked to use that space because of the location, because of its proximity in terms of the deaf community, in particular, with regard to the Omaha campus, but have not been able to do so because there has not been statutory ability by which they would be allowed to do that. All the amendment by Senator Wehrbein would do is allow for that to take place. I think it's a viable option that we should explore, and I would urge you to support Senator Wehrbein's amendment to the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, I'm talking to Senator Wehrbein about whether or not he's going to pursue this as an amendment to the amendment. My question would be germaneness at this point. And I think...I don't know. I guess I'd ask Senator Wehrbein, could we have your amendment filed to the bill rather than this amendment? Would that be possible?

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wehrbein.