

September 29, 1992 LB 4

voted? The motion is to advance the bill (sic). Excuse me, committee amendments, adoption of the committee amendments. It requires 25 votes. Clerk, record.

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

SENATOR WARNER: Motion carried, the amendments are adopted. Senator Wesely, on the advancement of the bill, initial discussion.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President and members, I am the introducer of the bill and I rise in support of the bill but I, frankly, hate this bill. What this bill does is it delays for two years needed services for individuals who, through no fault of their own, are born developmentally disabled. They go into a special ed program, they're guaranteed access to those services. They reach the age of 21 and they fall out of that mandate into a community based program that has them wait for years and years and years for services that they desperately need. These are not individuals who have asked for this disability. These are not individuals that deserve this disability. These are individuals who tolerate and persevere under that disability and try to accomplish all that they can within the skill levels that they have available, and we need to help these people develop those skills, have those opportunities. At the hearing we had on this bill, we had individuals come forward one after another desiring the chance to work, wanting to be able to work and having sad story after terrible story told about being turned around and left abandoned after working for individuals, having had the chance to prove themselves but being forgotten by the system that they had come to rely on. These people are, as they expressed to the committee, feeling worthless and helpless and forgotten by the rest of us who are more able and capable of providing assistance to those who are not able and capable of doing some of the things we are luckily and fortunately able to do. And the committee, I think, was very moved by this and concerned, as I am, and very proud of the fact that LB 830 did move us forward in this direction to try and allow for these people not to fall through the cracks, not to have them have a mandated service program through special education only to find the community turning their back on them, having them have to wait as, again, waiting for those services. And not only those individuals in special education but there are 866 individuals now on waiting lists across the State of Nebraska, again,