

are professionals. The costs associated with the bill are somewhat minimal. There are no small...no small amounts of money. When I talk about it being minimal, I say it's somewhat minimal. It provides for one full-time mental health specialist at \$38,291, 500 hours of interpreting services at 10,000 annually, and the purchase of assistive devices and office equipment at 4,000 in the fiscal year 1996. DPI estimated their cost to be 5,000 for each division for a total of 10,000. The bill doesn't cover the cost of community based programs who may need to hire or train staff with special qualifications for the hearing impaired. The total cost for '95-96, \$71,791 and \$61,942 for '96-97. So I do appreciate your listening to what we have said this morning. Put yourself in the place of a hard of hearing or completely deaf person and understand what they're up against when they go to get services. We had one mother come to the hearing who talked about her son who was sent to Chicago after they couldn't quite work out the services here, and he...eventually he committed suicide because he felt like he was completely away from his family, completely away from the people he knew and he's in that little world where he can't hear what people are saying to him. So thank you for listening to the debate ahead of this, and I do thank Senator Chambers always for bringing these things to our attention and all of you who, Senator Hall, and all of you who contributed to that debate. I would ask that if you have any questions, I will try to answer them. I will listen to the rest of the debate and I would hope that you will vote to move LB 25 this morning and feel that you have done something to help some people who really need help. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Janssen announces that the following guests are visiting the Legislature. There are ten Christian Home School children from Fremont, Nebraska here, and their teacher, and they are in the north balcony. Will you all please stand and be recognized. The Chair recognizes Senator Withem, followed by Senator Chambers, Senator Hillman, Senator Pedersen, Senator Coordsen, Senator Beutler, Senator Bernard-Stevens, Senator Robinson and Senator Crosby.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body, I have a couple of questions about the bill, the way it's drafted. First of all, Senator Crosby, I would like to characterize for you what I view is the intent of the bill, and then let me know if I have a general sense of it or not. But how I view the intent of this bill is you have a group of