

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...those concerns can be addressed at a later point, but at this time, at this point, I see no alternative but to move forward with this legislation or face far more severe, far more negative consequences by not taking action.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. The Chair recognizes Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President, members, I rise in support of the advancement to E & R of LB 25. My questions earlier, Senator Wesely, dealt with the issue that was raised in Section 9 of the bill and the body chose not to leave that provision intact but that doesn't change the concept or the intent of the bill. I believe that the bill provides a service that is needed, a service that will be brought about either by the public policy of this body or through the courts. That's really the choice you leave yourself if you choose to go with those who think that this is too costly. The cost associated with the bill is modest compared with the legal fight that will ensue. Even though maybe I don't agree with the issue of creating a new committee right now, I think the specialist that is provided for in the bill, along with the commission who does an excellent job, can take care of this, but that's something that can be dealt with either through an amendment here or possibly on Select File. I heard Senator Beutler's comments about another committee that would be established and very likely I would probably be supportive of that type of amendment because that doesn't really strike at the heart of what the bill is all about and that's to make sure that all Nebraskans are entitled to at least some type of opportunity to use these services. Hearing-impaired have a special need, that's all it is. They need to be able to make use of the same kind of public services that we pay as any other individual to the same percentage, to the same degree, not to any greater degree but at least to the same level of use as is necessary and as would be provided under this bill. The appropriations aspect of it, as Senator Bernard-Stevens touched on, talked about this is an issue better addressed in the Appropriations Committee. By passing this bill over to E & R, you don't hamper the Appropriations Committee. As a matter of fact, they probably go hand in hand. It would be, I think, ill-advised to not vote for this bill because there is a bill that addresses the issue in Appropriations. They will deal with that in a timely manner