

well how about other states, what have they done? And as I understand it, 45 states either have been approved for this option or are applying for the option. So we are, as Senator Robak said, in a sense bringing up the rear once again on this particular point. And I want to...I want to particularly note that this does tie into the issue of Maximus. And one of the points I'd like to make is that they brought this up at the hearing on Senator Chambers' bill as one of the areas they would look to, to bring in additional federal dollars. And I think it's a little ironic and a little frustrating for some of us, like Senator Robak and I and others, who have been talking about this rehab option for years and suggested that it be implemented, to now find somebody out of state coming in and saying, you know, you really ought to do this rehab option, and then turn around and pay them 9 percent or 12 percent or whatever they'll end up getting of whatever money is brought in, when we knew that this was available, that we should be doing this and suggested, and pushed, and prodded to have this done for years. And now, all of a sudden, we're going to be paying somebody else money to do what we knew should be done all along. And it's very frustrating to me. My hope is and my intent would be that we would not have this particular part of the Maximus effort result in fees being paid to Maximus. This is an initiative by the Legislature, this is something that has been brought up by the Legislature, this is something being required by the Legislature, and I don't think we should turn around and pay somebody to implement something that we have been talking about and pushed forward through this legislative body. So one of the intents of this bill, in my view, is to get the job done finally, and to get it done without having to pay the additional fee to Maximus. With that, I'd be happy to answer any questions. But I feel very strongly that this is an excellent piece of legislation and long overdue.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Today is Senator Bromm's 50th birthday and he has brought rolls for everybody. Happy birthday, Senator Bromm, for reaching the half century mark. And Senator Vrtiska and Senator Robak wish to announce that Ashley Efkin (phonetic), who is sitting with me this morning, is a fourth grader here from Nemaha Valley, and her mother, Gail Efkin (phonetic), is in the back of the Chamber. Both are visiting this morning. Will you please stand and be recognized. Welcome to both of you. There's an amendment, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Robak would move to amend with AM1031.