

(Amendment appears on page 1189 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Madam President. This is a simple amendment. What it does is Section 1 of the amendment simply clarifies that DPI and Department of Social Services are to contract to implement the community-based mental health services after Department of Social Services applies for and receives federal medicaid rehabilitation funds. Section 2 states that the Department of Social Services shall contract with the Department of Public Institutions for services under the medicaid rehabilitation option. Section 3 substitutes policies for...promulgate rules and regulations. This amendment firms up the language to make sure that Department of Social Services and Department of Public Institutions contract to provide these services. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Robak. Senator Beutler, do you wish to speak to the amendment? Senator Witek, do you wish to speak to the amendment? To the amendment?

SENATOR WITEK: Yes, ma'am. Madam Chairman, members of the body, I will be voting in favor of the Robak amendment. I've prepared a couple of amendments based on some of the language in the bill and some of the language in the fiscal note. This is a good, very good bill, and I'd like to thank Senator Robak for working together with a situation that probably was very difficult at times and coming up with a really good solution to that. Her amendment addresses some of my concerns on the specific language of the bill and the monies that will come out of contracts that we are...have signed in the State of Nebraska to go after some federal money in these areas. And the concern that that money that we are expecting from the federal government will go into specific programs, into specific areas, and not just be an addition to monies that we already spend in the General Fund. Hopefully, it will be used as a balance to the General Fund and we can use that revenue and strike some of the revenue that we are already spending in the General Fund, so that we can fully fund some of these services and at the same time get some financial relief in some of these areas. So I've prepared several amendments that I will talk to Senator Robak about, and I'll propose them on Select File. But one of my amendments deals almost with the same area that Senator Robak's amendment takes care of, and that's in part two of her amendment