

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Chair recognizes Senator Robak to open on her amendment.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. The Pages are passing out AM1388. Just to go back briefly in time a little bit, in case anybody's forgotten LB 752, this is a bill that comes from the interim study on mental health services. It creates the Rehabilitation and Support Mental Health Services Incentive Acts to implement the federal Medicaid Rehabilitation Option, and a simple definition of that is middle intensity community-based services for persons with severe, persistent and disabling mental illness. The Medicaid Rehab Option is a way of obtaining a federal match of 60 cents for every 40 cents that Nebraska spends on community-based rehabilitation services for people who's target population includes persons who's mental illness substantially impairs their ability to function independently in society over an extended period of time. This amendment, it is printed in the Journal, the Pages are passing it out now. This will replace the original bill. This actually makes very few changes in the E & R amendment which we just discussed. The first change is that the Department of Social Services, page 2, lines 16 and 17, and Department of Public Institutions are required to work together to implement this plan for community-based mental health services. The second change is inserting the word "may" when listing services which the department may apply for. This is found on page 3, line 2. The original bill had a mandatory service list. The reason for this elective language is to have flexibility when writing the program for federal approval. Another change makes the State of Nebraska the contractor with mental health service providers. The original bill had the two departments combining before contracting with service providers, that's on page 4, line 9. Lastly, some redundant language in original Sections 8 and 9 is eliminated, which also takes care of a departmental concern and the new fiscal note. This amendment was written with the approval of the Governor's office, and I ask for your adoption. I'll be happy to answer any questions you might have at this time.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Robak. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, members. The amendment offered you by Senator Robak has been one we've worked