

are that have been in the newspapers and all the things, I've gone to hearings and so on with employees to see if we can't correct these things. But I don't really think at this moment, I don't see how we could close down the Lincoln Regional Center. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you. Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROZAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. Senator Crosby, it's my...it wasn't a...it's a section of my bill, 1257, that we're discussing right now. LB 1257 does not close or...close the regional centers at all. LB 1257 essentially did something else, it changed the Division of Medical Services within the department...Division of Psychosocial Rehabilitation, removes the requirement the director of division be a qualified licensed physician. It goes on and on. However, that part is not, has not been advanced from committee. The chairman, Senator Wesely, amended one part of my bill, 1257, into his bill and it simply states, if regional centers are downsized and patients are returned to Nebraska's communities, it is a policy of the state of Nebraska that all local, state and federal funds which supported services in the state's regional centers shall be reinvested in the community-based mental health system to provide cost effective psychiatric or psychosocial rehabilitation services to Nebraskans with severe and persistent mental illnesses. Senator Maurstad's amendment struck local. I think you've heard the explanations of why from both Senator Maurstad and Senator Wesely. And that's what my section of this bill does. Senator Wesely was gracious enough to include that portion in his, in his bill today. Yet, it's vital to the mentally ill population in Nebraska because if they are downsized, due to patients being returned to community-based centers, all local, state, and federal funds used for institutional care shall be invested...reinvested in community-based centers. That's all my amendment does. And as you noted, the word "local" has been stricken. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: There are no further lights on the pending Maurstad amendment. Senator Maurstad, do you have a closing.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Wesely, would you like to make any comments? Okay. I appreciate the questions and the discussion on this particular issue and also