

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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LB 355

times larger, or four times larger than this bill. But it is a significant piece of legislation, and I commend Senator Robak for it. I ask for the adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: You've heard the closing. The question before the body is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 355. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of committee amendments.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Committee amendments are adopted. Debate on advancement of the bill? Senator Robak, you're recognized to close on the advancement of LB 355.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to just close by saying a few things about mental illness. Early diagnosis and treatment are very important, because if you can figure out what's wrong...and now that the insurance companies can cover people through that first accurate episode of illness, it's highly possible that once treated effectively, there won't be a second one. People don't have to get worse and worse the way they did 30 years ago. Thirty years ago, we didn't know what to do, and there were a lot of other diseases we didn't know what to do about. But we do know now. Many physical illnesses no longer have to end badly, and the same is true with mental illnesses. If the...now that the insurance companies could last and get people through that first episode accurately diagnosed and on a treatment regimen that's going on to make a difference, there will not be a second episode. There's a lot of people in this state right now who have stories to tell about the fact that they have young people, adolescents who are showing signs and symptoms of what may in fact be a major mental illness. These are the people who have had to put their children in custody of the state. Putting them in the custody of the state has meant recently that they've been using...using programs outside of the state of Nebraska for mental health residential treatment, because a lot of these services are not necessarily available in Nebraska. We're trying really hard to get community-based treatment services running up in this state of Nebraska so that you don't have to rely on resources beyond