

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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the services are that they get now. Can they enhance them, can they make them better? Yes, they can. So from that, from...I just, again, ask you very personally to...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CROSBY: ...support this bill. The last time around I said that I would monitor this agency even though I'm going to leave the Legislature, and I want to correct any misapprehensions that anyone thought I was going to be down here standing in the lobby. I will not be. All I meant was that I will...I will be aware and trying to understand what the new commission will be doing. And I think that all of us should do that when we...when we bring a bill and create something that we think will...will work. We should be interested in how it's working. So that's what I'm going to do. I'm not going to be down here standing out in the lobby. So I know you all will be glad to hear that. Thank you very much, and to make it serious again, please vote to advance LB 352. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I really didn't intend to speak again on this issue but when I heard so many speaking against at the very beginning of the discussion, I decided I'd better turn my light on because I have become convinced that the question is, how would the blind be better served? And the question has been answered for me by Senator Crosby and by members of the blind community, themselves, that they would be better served by being a separate agency. And I would just like to read to you from the memo that I think probably we all got from the Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the National Federation of the Blind, and it says: LB 352 would provide for the elimination of the burdensome bureaucracy of the Department of Health and Human Services and establish the more direct control of the Commission for the Blind as a service unit by persons who are committed, competent and concerned more directly with blindness and the affairs of the blind. This, in turn, would result in greater efficiency of service delivery and, the bottom line, more blind persons in Nebraska would become independent and