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LB 1217

CLERK: 29 ayes, 1 nay to cease debate.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Debate ceases. Senator Jensen, you're recognized to close on your motion to override.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also ask for a call of the house and I'll continue speaking while...if you want to do that.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: The question before the body is, shall we go under call? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record.

CLERK: 31 ayes, 0 nays to place the house under call.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: The house is under call. Will all unexcused members please return to the Chamber. The house is under call. Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll continue while senators come in and check in. There was a survey that was done in April of 1999, a survey of providers of the Nebraska Association of Homes and Services for Children, and of that survey 10 of 21 respondents indicated that they would have to reduce or cease service provisions if the rate reimbursement remained the same. Ten of 21 would reduce services. Four agencies were not sure if they would have to reduce or cease services. One-third of the providers who responded have already reduced or ceased the provision of a service or services, and the services that have already been reduced are the number of youth being served, day treatment programs, direct staffing levels, group homes, educational services, reduction of therapy services. One-third of the respondents would either reduce or cease services within this next year if there was no rate increase soon. That was in April. Another third of the respondents would either reduce or cease services within the next two years if there was not a rate increase. To me, that tells me that we have a very serious situation; that if we cannot get a reimbursement increase that we are going to lose services. Then where do we go? I mentioned the Olmstead case that was tried and said that we must have more community services. I think that Nebraska is skating on thin ice; if we