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FLOOR DEBATE

March 23, 2004      LB 1083

logic of it. And I will support the amendment. I'm a state senator from Omaha and I really want this to move forward. And if this necessary to do it, that's fine with me. We need more treatment options in Omaha. We have a provider community that's raring to go, but I also understand that if this is going to move forward, it has to work for the whole state, not just Omaha. We seem to have reached a compromise that works for everybody. I commend everybody involved in hammering out the final details, and again I congratulate Senator Jensen on accomplishing the political equivalent of scaling Mt. Everest. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Maxwell. Senator Combs, on AM3329.

SENATOR COMBS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I, too, am very grateful for everyone that has worked so hard on this. And not to be repetitive, like we say in committees, but I do want to thank, and I did personally already thank the Governor for agreeing to this compromise this morning. I think it's very important that, before LB 1083 goes on, that both sides are together on it, so that somewhere down the line it does not get derailed because we had some malcontent on one side of the issue or the other. So I'm very grateful for that, grateful to see that the body has worked together. I know in some of my discussions with my colleagues and people on both sides of the issue, I referred to this as a situation where we're giving away a home that perhaps an old couple has lived in, been in the family for a hundred years, and we were being asked to sign a quitclaim deed and we were just asking for a conditional contract. Didn't mean that the sale wasn't going to take place and that assisted living wasn't the best place for the old people to go, a better level of care, but it just meant that we needed to be prudent in our oversight, and I believe that this accomplishes that. In answer to Senator Maxwell's question, I do believe there was a constitutionality concern about a committee acting on behalf of the Legislature, as opposed to the Exec Board, who are authorized in the constitution to make decisions on behalf of the Legislature. So actually, logic, you know, did not take precedence over what's in the constitution. So I think that was the major concern