## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

March 15, 2005 LB 206

believe we need to remain vigilant, that certain necessary levels of care are in place. LB 206 is a great addition to innovative solutions in this new perspective. This bill defines the necessary level of care for some people. I thank the former Governor Johanns and the Policy Cabinet for deciding to utilize one of the buildings at the Hastings Regional Center campus for the new services that this bill addresses. Behavioral healthcare reform has led Hastings Regional Center to change the types of services that it provides to consumers in Nebraska, and this legislation exemplifies that reform as it continues to emphasize the need for these kinds of services. Last week, Senator Byars, several staffers, some members of the Health and Human Services Department visited Hastings campus and the program called Bridges. Bridges is a 14-bed unit that houses people with developmental disabilities; is a facility for those who need secure residential services and an illustration of Nebraska adjusting services to meet the current needs of the This program is a cooperative effort between the consumer. providers of the two cities of Beatrice and Hastings. It's a new, young program, but is growing. I always support action on behalf of people who have disabilities in advocating for their rights, including the freedom to enjoy the rights of full societal membership, but I also believe there has to be a If individuals are dangerous to themselves or the public, we must ensure that those who need services are in an environment which will minimize a potential threat to themselves and public safety. This bill definitely assists with that effort, and I thank Senator Byars for bringing it to us. you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Burling. Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Mr. President. Certainly want to assure Senator Chambers. I know that he understands completely that my passion and my impetus for any type of representation for people with any type of disabilities, not only developmental disabilities, is genuine, and I know he understands that. The piece that he referred to, we'll certainly look at his amendment. We want to work with the Senator so that we can have a bill that's going to be appropriate and deal fairly with all involved and, in this case, we're looking at employees or people