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LB 709

that we have individuals who would read the bill and they would say, well, based on the experience and the leadership of Senator Jensen in reforming behavioral health, he's going to have two people in a room, holed up somewhere, to do this. Do you have proof that that's ever happened? No. Will it happen? Absolutely not, and we're here today to ensure that that doesn't happen to alleviate the concerns of those who may think that. So Senator Chambers can look at the green copy appropriately. Maybe he didn't have the experience of what happened there, or maybe he didn't think it went as well, and so I think it's appropriate for us to step forward and say this may be the process that would have made more sense to be outlined so that people know what the process was. The green copy of LB 709, contrary to what you've heard on the floor, was not two people going to write a proposal and submit it to us or the Chairman of the committee and have legislation introduced. You want a recipe for failure? That's it. Do you want to just sit and discuss something? That would have been it. Do you want to put forth meaningful proposals that encompass a vast area that affects the costs...

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: One minute.

SENATOR ERDMAN: ...of the system and potentially see improvements? Include people in that discussion, flat out. That was the intent. The intent is further clarified in this amendment. It's further clarified in the committee amendment. To say that this is now 12 people is again irresponsible because there are public meetings. There are public meetings as we had in LB 724 where we're going to go out to the communities, we're going to go out and find the people who don't have the ability to come to Lincoln and to have these discussions. And why would we do that? Because there's some ploy to do something that's not written in the bill? No. Because we all have a vested interest in making sure that we're meeting needs of the citizens of the state of Nebraska and to ensure that they understand what is needed and that we understand their needs. That's the intent. So again, to say that this is 12 people--irresponsible. This is a discussion that must be held statewide with all interested parties, and there is continual process to clarify that, either with this amendment, with the committee