

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 40

CLERK: Not to Senator Redfield's amend...no, I have nothing further to Senator Redfield's amendment.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Then we will go back to the discussion on AM1666. And, Senator Flood, you are recognized to open on that or to discuss that.

SENATOR FLOOD: Thank you, Madam President. I would yield some of my time to Senator Redfield. There's been an agreement in this matter.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Redfield, can you use the time?

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, yes. I just wanted to make sure we dealt with the other amendment that had been filed. I am going to pull this amendment. I want to explain to the body what we have talked about. Senator Flood has always been a supporter of LB 40, and he's certainly sympathetic, and I believe he'll tell you that, with the goal of a fair distribution of funds throughout the state. What has been unfair is that Omaha and Lincoln have been left out of the distribution and, yes, they are...they can qualify for community development block grants, but those are also distributed throughout the state and other communities have not been eliminated from our Affordable Housing Trust Fund. So the agreement is this. We're going to withdraw both of the amendments. We're going to move forward on the bill because what's important is that we get the distribution out to those entities that can provide housing for those with serious mental illness. That's the thrust of this bill, and making the Affordable Housing Trust Fund whole, which the bill does as it sits. So we will be putting pressure on DED to make sure that the funds that go out in the future are distributed. We'll be watching very carefully this year and if, in fact, we don't believe, Senator Flood and Senator Chambers and myself, if we don't believe that's happened over the next year we'll make sure that we come back and cut the budget for DED to a sensible amount until they cooperate. So I think our goal for everyone here is that we are fair in our distribution. And with that, I will return the time to Senator Flood and then, when he's through, I'll withdraw the amendment.