

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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as we have just finished a Medicaid reform effort in this state, and looked at ways that we can save money in Medicaid, this does that at the same time. And it saves the state money and provides people with a choice. And I'd like to just take a moment of your time to share a little bit of information that I think you all received from the Arc of Nebraska. And the Arc came in and testified very positively for this change. Quite honestly, the reason that I drafted this legislation and brought it to you, my colleagues, was because the disability community came to me and talked to me about the difficulties they have in rural Nebraska particularly in finding transportation. But I found other times, even in the more populous area of the states, where at given times of the day, to make appointments and to find transportation was extremely difficult for certain individuals. And this letter that you received and I received verifies that the Arc of Nebraska wanted to restate its strong support for LB 1069, which provides options and choices for transportation needs of people with disabilities. And it talks about the bill addressing a critical need for many people with disabilities who live across the state and providing them a choice. And you know, if you have a choice of having a family member or somebody close to you to provide that transportation, you certainly...all of us would certainly much more likely make that choice. And the disability community, when they brought this to me, said clearly that transportation, or, more clearly, the lack of transportation is one of the highest areas of need for people with disabilities in this state. And the Arc of Nebraska and the Arc local chapters receive an incredibly high level of calls from people who need assistance with finding transportation, and this bill, LB 1069, provides that option, that alternative for those people who have not been able to find transportation, especially within the rural areas of the state. Now, I want to make it clear, there...some people who provide taxi or van-type service have tried to instill some fear in people in the state that if they support this kind of legislation it's going to drive them out of business, they won't be there to provide services for other people in the community. When this type of legislation has been initiated in other states, that has not been the case. We have looked at the insurance issue, which is one that was raised. I can talk about that more in detail, but we have found case studies in other