

if you have any.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Senator Robak, you have two minutes.

**SENATOR ROBAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I'll be brief because Senator Wesely has said it all. I do believe that the people who suffer from major mental illnesses are, indeed, the forgotten people of our state, probably the nation, but especially so in Nebraska. Because, as Senator Wesely said, coming out of our interim studies, we did have a bill of LB 1178. It was not allowed to be in the welfare reform bill. We felt that if the current administration would not take it upon themselves to implement this option, then I felt that it must be mandated because we must get those funds now. We don't know what's coming down on the federal level. This would allow us to get federal funds, it is a revenue neutral option, and I do believe that it is necessary that we do this right now. I am very sorry and sad, indeed, that the mental ill, those people that suffer from major mental illnesses are forgotten by us, by the senators and by the State of Nebraska. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Thank you, Senator Robak. Senator Rasmussen.

**SENATOR RASMUSSEN:** Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I want to make it clear from the onset, even if Senator Day would have left this motion in place and had it come to a vote, I had made a decision, a very difficult decision, to not vote for any of the overrides because I cannot do anything to put in jeopardy the increased support for those 1,200 families who have adult children with disabilities who have nothing. And so for that reason, I would not even support this effort to override the veto. However, I appreciate the opportunity to make a couple of comments. Others have already said them but I want to just give a little information. About four years ago, when I came in as a freshman, Senator Lynch, Senator Robinson, and I introduced some legislation. We became concerned with the fact that we were spending about \$6 million for out-of-state services for approximately 75 children, who had severe problems, and we put together a study group that was made up of the department heads to look at the whole issue of how to address services for these young people. It was clear that we were placing them out-of-state because we have a lack of appropriate programs inside the state, and there was several problems, though, with those out-of-state placements; one, that they were very