

January 29, 1980

LB 525

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Venditte moves to return LB 525 to Select File for a specific amendment. The amendment is printed in the Legislative Journal on page 525.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Venditte.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the problem that we have in the City of Omaha with this particular piece of legislation is that it is all encompassing and currently Omaha has an excellent group care facility ordinance which allows for the equitable distribution of halfway houses throughout the community. Now I have just recently been informed of this within the last four or five days by members of the Omaha community who have expressed similar concern to the Omaha delegation and I have to agree with the input that has been given me that currently Omaha has ordinances which protect us there in the city and we in the City of Omaha would like to be excluded from this particular bill and that is pretty much what the motion is before the body this morning. I discussed this matter with Senator Sieck. The Senator seems to think that the safeguards are therein provided and I have to disagree. Now there are not many safeguards for the City of Omaha and currently we have avenues in which people can appear before the City Council so that if, for example, a group home is going to be in a particular area and these citizens feel that these particular homes are currently oversaturated, then at least that avenue is there for the people to at least voice their concern and I would hope that that avenue is not lost. With the passage of this bill the way it is currently written, the people of the City of Omaha would not have a right, would not have the time of day afforded them that they have now with the way the ordinance in the City of Omaha is drafted. So, ladies and gentlemen of the Legislature, I would hope that you would give the people of the City of Omaha the continued right to voice objections to group homes, wherever they may be situated in the City of Omaha, and again the way it is now written, Omaha is under a blanket state law, if this bill goes through, and I think Senator Hoagland has some, perhaps some input on this bill. At least if any of the other Omaha delegation members are here listening this morning, I would hope that you may have something to say as well.

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

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