

Jerry... I see Senator Warner is listening, right after that, facilities in both Hastings and Norfolk were established. And as the population grew, it was determined that maybe they should build a thousand bed facility in Omaha, Douglas County. However, Douglas County was developing a facility at the time and it became the chief provider for indigent psychiatric care and acute psychiatric hospital services. The intent of LB 82 is to further define the cost to be paid by the State of Nebraska for persons committed to the Douglas County Hospital Community Mental Health Center. At present the law states that Douglas County Hospital will be reimbursed for the cost of care the same as if such patient was committed and treated at one of the regional hospitals. However, the state currently only reimburses Douglas County Hospital for current active committed inpatients. And what this bill would provide simply is, number one, what is now being covered, and, number two, the custody pursuant to the peace officers, physicians and the psychologists, psychologist commitments. On page 3, Section 3, line 6, it does spell out in the law, spell out very clearly that Douglas County should be treated identically along with every other county in the state as it applies to these kind of commitments. But at the present time, DPI has been using a different interpretation to limit the payments to Douglas County Hospital, so I guess you could consider this the fair shake bill and I would greatly appreciate your consideration and support of this legislation.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Lynch. Senator Warner, do you wish to speak on this bill?

SENATOR WARNER: Yes, Mr. President, not because of the reference Senator Lynch made but I had a broader concern on whether or not the bill should be advanced from General File at this point. You know, admittedly the general fund impact is not all that great. The other day though we held a bill on General File that had a general fund impact substantially higher. This is \$28,000. But I think if...at some point we need to make a decision on bills being advanced from General File that have general fund impact for the simple reason of the tight fiscal condition that the state finds itself in. But there is another rationale I would also like to mention to the body and this will be a budget issue that you will at some point be dealing with. Senator Lynch is quite correct in stating that the state currently funds this kind of assistance at the regional centers and the purpose of the