

PRESIDENT: The committee amendments are adopted. The Chair recognizes Senator Jacklyn Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Mr. President and members of the body, I certainly thank Senator Wesely for his strong support for my bill. In fact, Senator Wesely has said about everything that I would have said on the bill and I thank him for that. No, we are within a fifteen minute time line here. All I would do is just reiterate what he said regarding the fact that this is of utmost importance to hospitals in rural Nebraska for the maintenance of people in that area and for their ongoing ability to serve them. And then to just summarize very briefly that the makeup of the bill is basically two parts. The first part, Sections 1 through 4, simply deals with cleaning up the language and updating current hospital categories, while Sections 5 through 8 are concerned with authorizing a new more flexible category of hospital, defined as a "short term hospital" to meet the needs of the people in the geographic area and which is primarily devoted to the diagnosis and treatment of the individuals requiring short term treatment, or which would allow coordination agreements with a general acute hospital for transfers and quality assurance programs. There is no fiscal impact to the general fund. Revenues will be derived from fees. And I would just simply ask for the advancement of this bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. How much time is left on this bill?

PRESIDENT: Approximately six minutes is expired so we have about fourteen minutes.

SENATOR HIGGINS: I would simply like to say that I will also vote for the advancement of this bill. I note that the Nebraska Hospital Association is for it and I am voting for the advancement of it to show the Nebraska Hospital Association I am not prejudiced against them, but I also think that it is a bill badly needed by the rural people in Nebraska. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Is there further discussion on the advancement of LB 209? If not, the motion is to advance. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. You are in trouble,