

a month to stay in the nursing home. She has been in the same nursing home all this time, so when she does deplete all her income it will be to that particular nursing home and I don't think that they should have the right to say that now your money is gone you are going to have to move and go somewhere else because you're on Medicaid. I support LB 782 and I think it deserves passage. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Withem, did you wish to close on the advancement of the bill?

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I'd like to ask you to advance LB 782. This is really a small step that we're doing and it is a stopgap step, but it is a step that will prevent the type of trauma transfer that takes place when an elderly person moves. One of the individuals, an expert in gerontology who came in front of the Health Committee, said one very simple thing happens when elderly people are transferred. They die. Historically, that tends to happen. Eleven people were transferred from the...were told that they had to transfer from the nursing home in question. Two of them have died, one shortly before, one shortly thereafter. It is a tremendous transfer. It is not nearly as severe as some things that are done in other states. Other states do...in some other states, not very many admittedly, but there are states that do what this bill originally did and that is require nursing homes to participate in the program from the basic entrance point. We're no longer doing with that. This is...also, I think you need to emphasize, this is an amendment that we've worked out and we've spent quite a bit of time working out with lobbyists representing the nursing homes, so we can surgically deal with this one specific problem without putting an undue burden onto the nursing homes. And also, I guess, this is in closing, kind of a pledge to them and to the elderly in the state and to the members of the body, this is an issue that is going to continue to get a lot of my attention. It's one we have to find a more equitable answer to. We cannot continue to have a situation where there is this two-tiered system of reimbursement. We don't have the answer to it yet. What I am asking you to do with 782 as it is now amended is to at least hold harmless the poor individuals that have saved their money, spent their money as long as they have it for their nursing home care, but run out of money, and that can happen to any and all of us. It probably will happen to all