

amendment would do. I would urge the adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Beutler. Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I, too, have some concerns about this amendment, although I think it's well intended. As Senator Robinson referred to, the LB 638 group has been taking a hard look at all out of home programs, particularly educational programs, but residential programs for persons in Nebraska that have disabilities that may be in need of residential programs. And I am concerned that even though this may not be the intent, that by filling the space up we preserve the buildings, even though they may end up in our report demonstrating that this is not a cost efficient way to provide these educational programs. I don't think they're any intent on anybody's part to say that the programs shouldn't exist, or they shouldn't be well funded, but the question has arisen whether or not the disproportionately high costs of these programs is not related to the fact that they are located in...in the campuses, particularly the School for the Deaf, on which they are right now. I have a question for Senator Wehrbein that I think Senator Robinson answered...asked, but I didn't hear an answer. You say the schools will make...Senator Wehrbein, would you answer a question, please.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wehrbein, would you respond, please.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: You said the schools would negotiate the leases, but in fact those programs are run by the Department of Education. Are you assuming that the Department of Education would...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, and it would be the Department of Education because they have control of the schools. Yes.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Would you then be comfortable between now and Select, if this passes, to work with some language in terms of making it clear that this would be subject to the approval of the Department of Education before any leases would be arranged.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, and I take that for granted that it would be. If it's not clear in anywhere in the bill,