

would also support the committee amendment. Everyone of our state aid programs spends funds for worthy causes. I know that there is a cause no worthier than the community based programs. There are also causes no worthier than state aid to education and all of the other 1 percent cuts that we are suggesting be made here, and I think it is also important to recognize that this, once again, this is a 1 percent cut recommended by the Appropriations Committee. It is a cut of 210,000 in a total budget of over \$21 million. It is fair. It is a cut we are asking of all of the state aid programs that are involved. I think to argue an exception on the basis of fairness for any one program is going to take us nowhere because by definition all of our state aid programs are extremely worthy goals and this one clearly does but I think we have to hold this package together or the effort may fail. So I would urge you to support this committee amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Thank you, Senator Hoagland. Senator Eret please.

SENATOR ERET: Mr. President and members, the Region 5 of the mental retardation program took in 61 people off of the waiting list this past year and the regions are not scheduled for any increase, so if we would go ahead with the amendment, we would actually be giving a 1 percent cut which would really put them into a bind after having accepted more people so I would recommend that we not accept the committee proposal.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Thank you, Senator Eret. Senator Nelson please.

SENATOR NELSON: I had to think what my light was on for. Senator Sieck, could I ask you a question. Are you referring to the educatable mentally retarded or is this funds for the general mental retardation program? There is a lot of difference in citizens that are educatable or citizens that are, you know, maintain their own factory work and so on.

SENATOR SIECK: Yes, Senator Nelson, these are individuals that are through the educational system and they go into a training program to learn how to develop a job, to do things, to work for themselves to earn money. That is what this is for.