

SENATOR WESELY: Oh, oh, I know what that is. All right, thank you. Mr. Speaker, members, this amendment is an amendment that ties into another one I will be offering on LB 830. It raises the question of vocational rehabilitation funding. As you recall at the briefing we had by the Appropriations Committee, it was indicated to us that there is a certain amount of money... certain amount of money that is available under the cap, under the match cap the federal government puts on the State of Nebraska for vocational rehabilitation funding. And because of the tight budget, we did not reach up to the level of that cap. And, obviously, I'm not going to come forward and ask that that additional funding be added to the budget but rather we have in place some \$87 million that's funding various mental retardation programs in the state, not all of that from state money but a good portion of that. And the idea is to utilize some of that money as a match for the federal vocational rehabilitation funding, and when you do that, you quadruple the money the state puts in. So for every dollar the state puts in, the federal government matches with \$4.00. We quadruple our investment. So what this amendment does is allows up to the amount of money still under the cap but not funded under the bill as it currently constitutes the Department of Public Institutions working with the various mental retardation regions the ability to use existing funds as match for vocational rehabilitation funds for services to our developmentally disabled individuals in the State of Nebraska. So there is no new or additional money but better utilization of existing funds to match that vocational rehabilitation fund and utilize our money more wisely. With that, I would be happy to answer questions. The amount of money that we're talking about is \$270,000 the first year, \$400,000 the second year and that's the cap we're authorizing again, not adding money but simply utilizing of those millions of dollars we sent out in services to the mentally retarded, we can and need to have more vocational rehabilitation programs. This allows some of that existing funding to be used as a match for the vocational rehabilitation funds that are not now matched under the budget. I think this is a wise use of money and would be mutually beneficial and I would ask for support for the amendmen' and be happy to answer questions.

SPEAKER BAACK: Discussion? Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Senator Wesely, I think I understand what you're doing but I do have a concern that I need to ask you about,