

Well, if it's the highest priority you should have been saying no to something else. You have to say no to something else on this sheet. You just can't say...continue to say yes, yes, yes. Something's got to come out, that's why I offer the amendment because we did not take enough out of LB 991, we do not seem to be taking...we're adding homestead exemptions and other bills that cost money, this is the place where something's got to come, I think. You pass (inaudible), I think homestead exemptions, several things in 991 are suspect as well as all of state government is suspect because the Governor can veto back. You simply have to get your spending level down in some way, shape or form. This is an alternative to do that.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Wesely, do you wish to speak to the Moore amendment to the Byars amendment?

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, members. I rise in opposition to the Moore amendment and in support of the Byars amendment. First off, keep in mind that Senator Byars is already offering a reduction from 8 to \$4 million; Senator Moore would now have that go from 4 to 1. Clearly, the gap that we're trying to fill, there is a budget gap, that's true. And the figures are astounding down the road, I understand that. But keep in mind we're trying to address a tremendous gap in services that now exist that's, I think, approaching \$29 million less than what we need to accomplish. So the \$4 million effort is woefully short of what we need, even the \$8 million would have been far below what is actually needed to meet the needs of those who have developmental disabilities in our state. We have 1,100 some different people waiting, on waiting lists to try and get services, consequences of that to those families, to those individuals are tremendous. Senator Hall talked about the impacts that he saw and felt personally, others have seen it, maybe not as directly, but indirectly. Clearly, we have underfunded our developmental disability services and the gap is widened and the problems have gotten worse. We have made major reform efforts over the last three years to try and make changes in the system, and we have now got a system, I think, that is able to, with the proper funding, do great things for our developmentally disabled. We are able to maximize the use of the money, we're able to follow the money. We now directly purchase services. We don't just throw money at the prob...we're buying services. We have some ability to control where the money goes and what we're able to get for our money. These changes make it possible for me to say that this will be