

that sheet two numbers, under Per Capita Local Tax Funds for Community Mental Health Regions. What that shows is the per capita local tax contributions for mental health in each of the regions. If you look at that you will see that the amount of contributions that each citizen makes towards mental health varies dramatically across the State of Nebraska. In Region I it is \$1.49 per capita. In Region III it is 74¢ per capita. In Region IV it is 72¢ per capita, about half of what it is in Region I. Well, what we are doing with Senator Kahle's bill by requiring a maintenance of effort clause is in effect to freeze those tax contributions at those levels. What Senator Kahle is asking us to do is to freeze an inequity in state law, to force people in some regions to pay twice as much for mental health services as they do in other regions and yet allow these individuals who do not want to raise this tax money to obtain more state funds. I don't think that is a good concept. I think if they want state funds they ought to make local tax contributions for those state funds and we should not be taxing residents in western Nebraska at \$1.49 per citizen and in other parts of the state at less than half of that. I think that is not a fair system and I am concerned about the maintenance of effort clause and locking in these inequities into state law. The other point I would raise is about the match. Now let's talk about the match and, Senator, in Region III which I believe is in Senator Kahle's area, in that area last year \$55,000 was left unmatched. This is a twenty-two county area. The match is 75-25. Now I have it calculated that those twenty-two counties would have collectively had to raise about...between fifteen and twenty thousand dollars something. Now I don't think it is a big burden to ask twenty-two counties who want to maintain or improve mental health services to raise fifteen to twenty thousand dollars. I don't think that is unreasonable so I guess I would object to setting up this structure at this time. The last point I would like to make is that there are many problems in the current structure and delivery of mental health services in the State of Nebraska.

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have thirty seconds.

SENATOR CULLAN: LB 415 is one attempt to take a look at how to straighten out some of those problems but the Health and Welfare Committee has decided to lay that bill over until next year so that we can take another more careful look at how to deal with problems in this area. I don't think LB 635 solves anything. It simply allows a region of the state that hasn't been meeting...making a significant contribution to mental health to find another way to obtain