

up to 60% of the local share. My amendment would create the same match formula for mental health services that now exist for alcoholism services. If any of you want to compare amendments to the alcoholism match, alcoholism match statute is 71-5027. In mental retardation services there are no restrictions on the make up of local share. There is no requirement that local taxes make up any part of it. I think it only fair and reasonable to allow the local share for mental health matching to include some of these other funds. I would point out to you that this approach met with no opposition at its hearing when it was LB 665. The question might arise as to whether changing this match formula will actually allow counties to decrease their tax participation in funding mental health programs. I stress it would not. The bill puts a floor under tax participation. Current year tax funding services that floor. Counties will not be able to decrease their tax funding of these programs. With that I think I will quit. I have some more information on this but I move for the adoption of my amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Cullan on the Kahle amendment.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I certainly have to admire Senator Kahle for his persistence. He introduced this bill, it came before the Health and Welfare Committee, it was killed there. Senator Kahle decided he didn't like the committee's action so he made a motion to bring this same bill to the floor of the Legislature. He talked about it, brought it up again, the Legislature rejected his attempt to bring this bill from the Health and Welfare Committee. Failing that Senator Kahle comes in on the...with eight days left in the session and takes the same bill as an amendment to a budget bill. Ladies and gentlemen I think we should reject Senator Kahle's amendment for the same reasons the Health and Welfare Committee rejected them once, for the same reasons the Legislature rejected it earlier this year. What Senator Kahle is attempting to do I think is clear. He is trying to divert additional state revenues and if there are only a certain amount of dollars appropriated to mental health, if he changes the match formula, additional revenues are going to be diverted to those areas as a result of this formula. So Senator Kahle is attempting to change the way the pie is distributed. Now what is going on currently? If you recall the debate on this issue earlier in the session I indicated the particular regions that Senator Kahle is attempting to protect already contribute about, in fact, less than half as much money to support of mental health as other regions do. Senator Kahle is saying that the Legislature should move in