

mental care for 21 and under, and ICFMR are the ones which are exempted from that proration. So in other words you could have the following situation, you could cut those optional services 12 percent and then all the services would be cut 2 percent. So we are preferring mandatory services and services paid for by the State of Nebraska over other optional services. The reason that something like this is necessary is to ensure that there is statutory authority for proration, first of all, and secondly to ensure that there is a means to handle the deficit which would occur if we failed to provide for a reduction, an across the board reduction in Medicaid services. Last year \$132 million was appropriated for Medicaid. In this budget in this particular bill there is \$138 million. But the Department of Public Welfare tells us that they are going to have to spend some of this year's budget to take care of a deficit from last year and they are also going to fall considerably short under the amount for Medicaid services under the funding that we have authorized in LB 942. So it is important that we provide some proration. I think it is logical that we make a distinction between mandatory and optional services in this regard because mandatory services are, generally many of them are acute care services and the other ones are sometimes chronic care services. So I think that distinguishing between mandatory and optional services is indeed logical. The projected cost of optional services excluding the Department of Institutions or those which would be cut first are \$75 million and that would be \$23 million or almost \$24 million in general fund money. So again I would ask you to adopt this amendment. This is an approach which I think will allow for reasonable reductions in Medicaid and it will preserve the services which are most essential at a higher level of funding than those optional services. I would ask you to adopt the amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: We have got an amendment to the amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wesely would move to amend the Cullan amendment by inserting the following: "The above authorization will apply only for the 1982-83 fiscal year".

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I do support the Cullan amendment. I do think it makes sense, more sense than what may be otherwise proposed at this time. My concern is that perhaps we ought to look at it as a short term solution to the problem