

SENATOR WARNER: Yes. The figure we usually use is four federal dollars for each one dollar of nonfederal money, that could be either local or state money, or Cash Funds I should say, or state...actually it's...I think the federal funds have declined and the match is slightly less than four to one now, but it's close to that.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Yes. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Senator Warner, I apologize, I followed this voc rehab and I got an amendment adopted, I think a year or two ago that put us at the maximum of state money, and then the Governor vetoed the money out and we didn't override. Senator Hannibal was just telling me that for every dollar of state money we get four dollars of federal money, so it's one of the most highly matched federal programs that we have, and it does deal with a real particular need. What I'm getting at is can you explain the decision of the committee not to go to full funding to fully maximize the match? And can you also explain, and I apologize, I haven't had a chance to look into this, but for a while we discussed the situation with the mentally ill being able, through DPI, to work in with voc rehab and thus utilizing this matched program to provide services. If I'm not mistaken, this has been talked about and there was some negotiation going on, and I just haven't heard and followed up on it. Do you have information about that and could you share that with us? I'm just inquiring at this point, if you're familiar with what's happening. Any time you have, what I'm getting at is any time you have a federal program with the monies that could be brought in, we should maximize the use and put it to work for our citizens, if they are in need of the assistance that this program can give. I just want to be sure that we're not missing an opportunity here, and that's why I'm asking these questions of you, Senator Warner. So I'll give the rest of my time to you.

SENATOR WARNER: Thank you, Senator Wesely. The current year, the number is 117,000, if I understood your question correctly, that is coming from the regions as with this amendment. Next year the proposal would be 142,000, which is a 25,000 dollar increase, which incidentally will show as Cash Funds here, but actually that is an increased General Fund appropriation to the regions. So...But it comes through the regions, if they choose