

better job, but regardless, there's an additional \$2.8 million of federal funds that are available to us if we qualify people properly for the waivers. So all told, we're talking about 30-plus million dollars. We had, as Senator Lynch pointed out to you, we did have a significant increase in the mental retardation area this year of a half a million dollars, plus some specific money towards Region VI of another \$250,000, and we have done some things with the other parts of the regional centers that we talked about earlier on the budget, and I realize that's not part of this. So to just add an additional \$500,000, a half a million dollars, while it's hard to stand up and say you're against mental retardation care and help if you don't vote for this, it's...it's...that isn't my purpose. My purpose is to suggest that we have gone a long ways towards...and we've funded the entire request of the department. Realize that the community-based programs, the regions constantly we'd like more. There are more monies available to them if they can qualify more people on the waiver. If they get them waiver eligible, then you bring more people in off the waiting list and there is a lot of effort that can still be made there. The other issue that I am less familiar with, but I understand it is under discussion within the Executive Branch, and Senator Lynch did allude to it, is the earmarking for children. And while again that sounds like a very noble cause, it is a question in my mind as to whether we don't already have that kind of a situation because we have special education, and special education, by the way, is a little over \$60 million this year in the state.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Hannibal, excuse me. (Gavel.) Proceed. I'm sorry.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those that aren't listening at least aren't looking terribly at me, so the rest of them that are listening are kind of making faces at me and I realize that it's not a very popular position. There's a question as to whether we ought to put the Department of Public Institutions or the regions into special earmarking for children. I'm not sure what the answer is. I'm not...I don't know that it's a good idea. I don't know it's a bad idea, but regardless, to place an additional \$500,000 in the budget this year for this program, I don't believe it's necessary. I believe we made a significant effort. I think we have other ways to continue on a program and...