

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: ..and to move people off of the waiting list, to make them waiver eligible, and I think we've made a significant effort and I can't envision the regions or the department or those involved with mental retardation would say that we are lax in our funding for mental retardation. I would hope that you would defeat the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Gentleman from Waverly, Senator Warner, followed by Senators Moore and Langford.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, Senator Hannibal has went into considerable detail in the funding that will be provided within the bill as it now stands and I would merely repeat a couple of thoughts, and one, of course, is that we can look at request after request and recognize that we are not funding the request at the level...at the highest desirable level, and that would hold true to this as well as other programs. There is an effort, however, to distribute fund and increases to a variety of programs, for example in some time during the day we will get to an amendment, for example, that adds 1.4 million, which is the Title XX money which is for child care and that's a children's program. We'll be adding more, quarter of a million, over a quarter of a million for additional people in protective services, which is for child care. Senator Hannibal has made reference to special ed. There are many programs in which increased funding is provided that affects children, that affects all segments of the citizens of this state, but I suspect none of them are funded fully at a level that would be the maximum quality of service that might be provided. I think with the additional Medicaid waiver that Senator Hannibal has pointed out that significant progress can continue to be made in the waiting list, and with the increase that the LB 813 already provides in this specific program, significant improvement is being made and can be made even though admittedly it does not take care of every need. But I do not believe that with some of the other adds that we need to consider that this additional funding here perhaps should be reserved for some of these other programs.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Chair is pleased to take just a moment to acknowledge some guests in both of our balconies this morning. It's apparent that we have a number of school superintendents and other officials of schools across the entire