

State of Nebraska. We are very pleased to have you people with us this morning. Would you please stand and take a bow and be welcomed by your Legislature? Thank you. We're very happy to have you with us this morning. Further discussion on the Lynch et. al. amendment? Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. Speaker and members, I rise with a good deal of distress to oppose Senator Lynch's amendment because, obviously, the whole community of mental retardation area is something I've very proud of the State of Nebraska in. You know, sometimes it's frustrating for all of us state senators to sit here and time and time again told us how we ranked 45th in this and 48th in that, and seem like we rank in the bottom 10 in about everything. Well fortunately, because of some foresight of the previous legislators, the whole area of how we deal with the retarded citizens of the State of Nebraska is something we're definitely ahead of some other states on, and for that reason it's, you know, it's frustrating to oppose the amendment, but as Senator Hannibal and Senator Warner mentioned it's not like already in the present committee recommendation we've done a great deal, a good deal, if you call half a million dollars for the regions and then another actually quarter of a million dollars for Region VI, we're talking a three-quarter of a million dollar commitment that we're already making. Now, in my own mind, if there were some other things we could do differently, this particular area of the budget would have a higher priority for me. The problem is we sit here the last week of the session, the last week of actually doing anything in the session, on Select File on our budget bill. We can't just sit here and continue to add things on to the budget. Now we spent two days last week trying to take things out and we didn't do too well at that. And so, you know, until we're able to take some things out, I, myself, will not be able to vote for this very worthwhile amendment. And when we can take some things out, when even there's some amendments to take some items out of LB 813 or LB 814, this particular amendment for me, personally, be high priority. But until that time, given the fact that we, in the present LB 813, we're recommending \$501,495 for the regions coupled with some increased funding for Region VI, until we can free-up some money, I have to oppose Senator Lynch's amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Langford. Senator Langford, please.