

when they only wanted to teach and educate those who were easy to teach and educate and a lawsuit had to be filed to force them to teach everybody. Well, there's an awful lot of those kids, in fact 57 of them this year, who are going to complete that special education and they'll be left out in the streets or at home with no place to go because they are still on the waiting list and that kind of number is the kind of number we have to face up to every year. What I propose isn't all... everything we need, not everything indeed. What I don't think we should do, in fact it's about half of what we need. If I understand right, there was a request for about a million and a half dollars to meet the whole need of the waiting list, including when we use the waiver or any other source of funds. They were funded with one-third of that, and that's fine. I'm not asking for the whole million; I just ask for a half a million more to try to get at least half of that waiting list served if we could. Seems to me that we have to understand the important responsibility here and, by saying that, I want to be very careful not to infer that we're not responsible people at all. It's a matter of priorities. Just in my mind, it seemed that this is one of those priorities we should continue to meet and keep up with. And, unfortunately, the Appropriations Committee did budget what the Department of Institutions requested, but you all should understand there's a difference. What the Department of Institutions requested isn't what the regional programs indicated to them and to the Appropriations Committee that they actually needed. Was a million and a half, not a half a million dollars. So what I was simply doing with this amendment was trying to encourage a majority of you to agree with me that we should, I think, and rightfully so, meet at least the need for half of those 537 folks that need to be served, and especially the children. I didn't want to get into the regional debate, but I can; and I won't do it now, but we probably should at some time. A lot of regions weren't serving kids in proportion to the adults that they were serving. In some cases, they weren't on waiting lists because it didn't have programs for them, so they just never put them on waiting lists. Now we can identify all of this sort of garbage, but it really isn't important. This year, with the kind of funds we have, it's a matter of priorities, at least in my opinion. We're grateful for...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR LYNCH: ..the recommendation, but I think this