

them...I realize it's \$2 million, but what better place can you put your money than to people like that that really need the funding? I think Senator Coordsen has a very good amendment here and it's someplace where we can put our money that it will go to a good use. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Hannibal, please.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, I rise to oppose the amendment. And Senator Coordsen made some very eloquent arguments about the funding and the need for funding in mental retardation aid to the regions. And actually I won't even disagree with him or Senator Schellpeper that, yes, you could put more funding into mental retardation aid to the regions and it probably would be used for very worthy purposes. I would suggest to you, however, that this program alone is not worthy of that consideration. As a matter of fact, we could list off a whole litany of programs that would fall under that same category, so what we, as an Appropriations Committee, have tried to do with...as we always try to do, is distribute a limited amount of revenues to an unlimited amount of needs and wants. And what Senator Coordsen is talking about now is an additional \$2,225,000 to what we have already given to the regions back in '88-89 which was last year's main budget, plus what we have already offered to the committee amendments for '88-89 and '90-91: an additional \$2 million. Now what have we given to the retardation regions right now? Well, from the previous year to the year we're in right now, '88-89, we have put in this year already \$500,000 to be used over and above last year to try to serve waiting lists and existing clients. That's in the law right now, we passed that last year, an additional \$500,000 we did. Also we added an additional \$263,000 to Region VI for some relatively specific things that we talked about last year that had intent language that we're adding today to verify that that's going to a certain area. Also we added today, with the committee amendments, an additional \$247,000 to Region V for their increase in clients and there we could get into some real good discussions as to how that increase in client account came about, who was right, who was wrong, who misunderstood, and I would prefer not to do that, but nevertheless we have added an additional \$247,000 and we have also added for waiver funds an additional \$1,722,000. So already for this current year we have added to last year's budget \$2,732,000. That represents about an 8.1 percent increase over last year's funding. Then we come to the new