

did not cut out this accountability language that we put into the bill through the appropriations process. That language was taken from another bill, LB 1129, heard by the Health and Human Services Committee and held. We did study the problems in the system a little bit and found that we needed to have more of a way for the state with our state money going into the system to know what we're getting back for the money we put into it. And that sort of language, I think, was reasonably attached to this bill by the Appropriations Committee. There is much to be done, much more work to be done in trying to examine the changes and improvements in the system that we need to make. We're nowhere close to having any recommendations at this point. We have much work ahead of us. But I think the way to proceed at this time is not to place two million more additional dollars in without knowing what we are getting for our money, without having in place a system to make sure clients...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...are being served by that additional money. And so, with that, I would suggest not supporting the amendment. That doesn't mean you have to vote against it, it just would mean not voting for it at this time and then suggest that as we move forward there may be other ways in which we can approach this problem that would be more reasonable and more accountable than what we're seeing at this point. It's not an easy thing to do, I know there is a lot of concerned people and I have already gotten a lot of calls, but I still think it's the right thing to do. I do know, from looking at this as an individual from Region V, Region V benefits tremendously from this. Out of the \$2.2 million, 1.3 goes to Region V. Region VI gets nothing out of this additional money. But, nevertheless, I think at this time it would be better not to proceed with this amendment, not to adopt it and see if perhaps there is some other negotiation that could occur that would be more reasonable in its solution of the problem.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, and members of the body, I rise to support this amendment. I feel that we need a little more money for our mental retardation regions. And I appreciate Senator Hannibal and Senator Wesely explaining what they're trying to do to correct this. But I have been down here a number of years now and, of course, I'm from Region IV and I'm