

become budget busters and I don't think we want to do that either. So I lay that out solely as a frame of reference to give you a little bit of guidance. I'm not having any easier time making this decision than you are but, at this point, it is appropriate and it is prudent, I think, to at least override the aging money. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Labeledz, followed by Senator Korshoj.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in support of the veto override of LB 1031 in the section of the Commission on Aging. I have to set my priorities also and, believe it or not, this is number one and it's number one priority for me. I received many, many calls over the weekend, in fact, when I got home on Friday night my husband had already received 18 calls. Some of the things that had been brought up when we discussed this before was the minimum wage increase schedule for implementation on April 1, 1990 will also have a negative impact on the agency's budget and I'm getting these facts from the Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging. And the initial figures for the three months period in the budget year reflect a \$10,502 increase in services costs. This problem will compound for the agency when the second minimum wage phase of 4.25 per hour is implemented next fiscal year. Approximately 90 days ago, the Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging placed the homemaker program on a hold status. To date, there are over 175 clients and that's been a month ago, so I don't know if that's been increased and I'm sure it has because we have that many waiting for service. In addition, all current clients have received a cut-back in hours of service. Many of the people in my district in South Omaha, and I think Senator Hall and I are running a contest as to who has the most elderly in their district, and in the past I have been number one in South Omaha, and there are many very frail clients that could use the additional hours in order for the agency to maintain them at a safer and more comfortable level. The Home Health Aid Program was placed on hold 30 days ago so that should be about, oh, 50 days now. And the Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging currently has a waiting list of many, many older Americans. In addition of hours of service, that in all phases has been reduced for many of the clients. All of these clients, as I mentioned before, are in frail health and would benefit more from at least two visits a week, especially when their care abilities are at that level. I have a sister that, in her middle seventies, that is almost totally blind now