

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I have a question. This is one of the bills that, for the last two years or the times that it has been heard, I very much supported it, but again, this time around and unless we can get the bill reduced and so on, I probably won't be supporting it because I am aware of the 1.9 million. I am aware of some of the requests and I think it would be one of the more difficult bills for me not to support and in light...the folks do deserve it. We have many bills coming down that way. I wanted to ask Senator Wesely a question and I wondered if I misunderstood or whether he didn't make it clear. I think you mentioned something about...

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Wesely, do you yield?

SENATOR NELSON: ...the mentally retarded or the ones, mental disabilities in group homes. This won't affect them any, will it?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, uh-huh.

SENATOR NELSON: I thought that they had somewhere, and I apologize for not knowing the exact figure, but right now that if they were a ward of the state in Bethany Home or for so on, and if they were living in an individual's home under supervised care, that they were able to retain somewhere around \$400 a month income. And I've had criticism in my area, Arlene, you're giving them too much money. They have to go out and spend that, in some of the cases, to come down below that, buy things that are not necessary and so on. Would you help me out on that? Does this cover those in those group homes?

SENATOR WESELY: Well, what we're talking about here is a minimum amount that they get to keep and so if they are receiving more than that in those situations then this wouldn't affect that situation at all. We're talking about not only in nursing homes, but there are group home settings for like the mentally ill, some of the mentally retarded and it depends on the circumstance, but these individuals are under certain types of categories of programs that we now have in place and they are not able to receive more than \$30 and so this would raise it to 45, so in your example, this wouldn't affect it.