

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President. Again, I rise in support of the committee amendments that have become the bill, I guess, since we have adopted those. Or did that just disappear from the board? I don't know. Anyway, I totally agree with what Senator Robinson was saying with regard to the issue of looking at out-of-state placements and it should not stop at just the area of education. I was a personnel director for a long time for a social service agency and we used to provide services that...and we contracted with the state for chemical dependency treatment for young people and for other folks as well. But I know that cost that the state was paying in some cases either through DPI or DSS was four, five, as much as 10 times what we were contracting with the state for to provide the same service and it was...these individuals were going to Iowa which meant the state dollars were flowing into Iowa's coffers to pay for programming that currently could have been received by residents of the state with state tax dollars at a considerable savings. Those are the kinds of things that need to be addressed amongst the agencies, amongst the departments, and it should not be something that stops just at education, I believe. If that is an area that should be an offshoot, if you will, of what 638 does, then so be it, but it ought to be a part of what the long range goal is to do and that's to conserve the resources that we have and first look at what is available within the state. I totally agree with that. The example that Senator Robinson gives of \$180,000 a year, Bud, you could hire a lot of minimum wage people for \$180,000 a year. I mean, if we could save that, pull that back, it clearly is savings to the state and you don't jeopardize the quality of care to those individuals or the quality of education. We have the ability here in the state to do these things. Should the residential facilities take different forms, whether it be the programs that we have at the schools for the visually impaired or the deaf, whether it be the Beatrice State Developmental Center, whether it be any other type of residential facility, should they change in focus, I mean, that is something that needs to be discussed. You can't...my argument is that, first of all, you will never get away from the need for residential facilities, period. They will always be here. There will always be individuals who are best served by those types of settings. You have to start from that premise. Now, from there, then everything is wide open. But if you start in with the idea that this is, I guess, a