

continue to look at this issue, not only through this session as this bill advances, but as we move into sessions in the future, because there will be many more things that we need to address, such as salary equities, such as training, such as truly providing service to all those people who deserve them. And I don't think that we should sit here and rest on our laurels as being on the cutting edge of providing services to people with developmental disabilities. I would ask you to support the amendment to the committee amendments and the committee amendments. And I also will be supporting 830 as amended.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Thank you, Senator Byars. Senator Robak.

**SENATOR ROBAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I have some, I don't know if it's a question or a comment to Senator Wesely with his committee amendments. I am in Region IV, and we have 100 on our waiting list in Region IV, Senator Wesely, to get into a group home, 104, 100 people. What will this do to these people?

**SENATOR WESELY:** Well, unfortunately, Senator Robak, with this amendment, and...it would...with the bill, without this amendment, by 1994 that waiting list would have to be eliminated, those people would have to be found services. Unfortunately, with this amendment there would be no entitlement to services, and that waiting list would simply go on until budgets and the services are available to accommodate those people.

**SENATOR ROBAK:** Well, I have...one woman is...she is...has been on the waiting list since 1988, and in that time she was number 51. They tell me now she has moved on to number 63 on the waiting list. And she is now...oh, she's 57 years old. So she may not live long enough to get entitlement. I was wondering why we can't address some of these problems in these...that need to be addressed.

**SENATOR WESELY:** Senator Robak, I agree with you 100 percent. It's unconscionable that people are having to wait for services that they so desperately need. This bill attempted to try and accommodate that by setting a target date, in 1994. We could still reach that target date. The intent will be to reach that target date, and we will try to do that through the study and the funding mechanisms. We'll address that issue next session rather than trying to do it this session.