

to find private sponsorships for those registrants who don't have the money for their own fees. So they try to make it as easy as possible for all youth to attend their conference. And of all those people at the conference, there were I believe 500 youth at that conference, 80 of those were labeled at risk. Senator Schimek, there were 80 of those conference, at that leadership conference that were at risk. You compare those figures with the \$103,000 expenditure for a five-day conference that only 67 attended. I think that you will agree that there was a huge financial disparity between the amount of money in two programs that are spent to accomplish similar goals. There were 500 youth that attended that one conference at a cost of \$32,000 and compare those two costs. And the two young boys that did testify at the hearing, one said he did come from a dysfunctional family and through his leadership, his NCY, he was brought up to where he is today and now he is leading the direction of other youth. So I feel that he has a good organization right there and they're doing it on their own and they aren't costing taxpayers any money and as legislators I feel that we have to be accountable to our constituents about where we spend our money, and I can't defend this program to my constituents when there are other organizations out there such as this organization, the Hugh O'Brien, Boys and Girls States and every other organization out there. They're achieving many of the academy's goals more effectively, more efficiently and with that I would like to ask the body to adopt the Nelson amendment to LB 843. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Nelson, you're next.

SENATOR NELSON: I do want to point out again, certainly, these children are maybe considered at risk. I don't think anyone can really tell me exactly what at risk means. Does that mean at risk dropping out of school? Does that mean at risk with a mental disability? Does it mean at risk in losing leadership ability? That's actually the definition, and as we said, 80 kids were identified in this other conference as being at risk children. There's the Hugh O'Brien and for us to just blatantly say that we're going to pass out this kind of money, my taxpayers if they heard about this, I'm sure would blow their mind. That's why we had the 2 percent lid come down the line. That's why we are being told as senators, reallocate your money, watch your programs and do the best that you can. I'm not