

the Department of Social Services annual report on the use of the \$500,000 that was given to them in the appropriations process. You will find that the report is two pages of narrative, front on the back, on the front and on the back, and on the back page it states, in the cost of more restrictive placement, although the court ordered placements have not occurred, the presence of LB 182 has resulted in additional placement costs. None...not documented at any place. Our most recent investigation of this issue found that to the best of our knowledge 15 cases have been filed, 9 opinions have been rendered by a three-judge appeals panel, some of the cases were dismissed on technical grounds, but none of those cases resulted in a higher placement of a juvenile. In fact, one case resulted in a less cost replacement than what DSS had originally proposed. I think it's important in the appropriation process that when we do allocate State General Funds to the different agencies, and when we do ask that the expenditures of those funds be documented and substantiated by actual expenditures, that in fact that be done. It does not appear that there was any real increase in funds on the part of the Department of Social Services in implementing these programs, at least it does not appear in that way from reading the LB 182 report. We have had brought before this Legislature, this year, several cases where a department of state government basically ignored the intent of the Legislature and spent monies appropriated them, be they General Funds, Cash Funds, or federal funds, in whatever way that they desire to spend at that particular moment in time, with no regard whatsoever for what the intent and the will of the Legislature was. Senator Wesely might be wanting to talk on this issue a little bit, because we have had somewhat of a litany of those types of operations within the bureaucracy of the Department of Social Services, whether we're talking about a settlement of a nursing home case, whether we're talking about lawsuits that were settled in the way that was not beneficial to the State of Nebraska, or other issues of that matter. So, with that little bit of an opening, I would let the body then talk about this matter just a little bit, if they were so inclined. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Moore, on the amendment offered by Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR MOORE: Pass over my light for now.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wesely.