

the agencies that we put in...that the Governor, I guess, puts in charge of these, whenever a cut is made, soon following is an amendment that reinstates the funding at the same level, and usually even more than that. So I applaud Senator Wesely for at least not pursuing that angle on this one. I know he has some concerns, particularly since Whitehall is in his district, that he wants some things said for the record. Though I do have a little more than a passing concern, one, about putting this intent language in there. Two, I have a concern about, at least it's my opinion that if we tell state agencies to cut 2 percent, 3 percent, 5 percent, whenever we tell agencies to cut, we have to be there to swallow the medicine when they say cut it, or disagree with them and tell them what else to cut, or come up with a better idea. I guess I, on this there are a couple things that I'm concerned about. I don't know, it probably can be realized. But I think Senator Wesely's amendment may create some additional hoops, and may make it certainly more difficult for this to occur. And, obviously, if you want Whitehall to continue, I understand that. I think that most of these things are reasonable requests. All of them are reasonable requests. But I guess I'm concerned about putting them in a bill as intent language. You know that number A, that the costs won't raise money to the state...won't raise the cost to the State of Nebraska. Well, obviously, the Department of Social Services is going to have to cut 2 percent out of their budget. I don't know if that's going to...how you're going to flow that across, but this is how they choose to do that. You know, can the local school district meet the needs? Well, in Lincoln they probably can. There's a question in the outlying school districts how that impacted. And it's one of those things to say always it's going to be difficult. You know, C, it's probably fine. D, it's probably...is what is going to happen. I don't think we're at the final part of the negotiation to make sure, yes, this is definitely the way it is going to happen. I'm a little hesitant if that doesn't happen. And E, you know, once again there will be no out-of-state placements. I think we're not yet to the point where that can be said by anyone. And so, because of those concerns, I have concerns about the amendment. And I know the Director of the Department of Social Services is trying to work with Senator Wesely. They've worked very well together. But I guess it's one of these things that when you put addendums on of what an agency has to do to close something, my biggest concern of all, Senator Wesely, is the precedent this sets. It's certainly my hope, and this is a discussion probably for a later time, but as you know in the budget request a...in the