

Appropriations Committee said, ah-ha, let's cut this, it's not a worthwhile program. This is one when the Appropriations Committee said to agencies, we're facing a 4 percent cut, it may only be a 3 percent or 2 percent later on, but right now it looks like a 4 percent cut, if you did have to do that where would you cut. And the agency came back and said, this was the number one priority, this was the number one priority of what they would cut. Then when we went back and said, there is only going to be a 2 percent, did that change anything, and the answer was, no, it would not. In that process, however, the Appropriations Committee was with the understanding, and correctly so I think, that Senator Wesely and others in the Lincoln Public Schools were working with the Department of Social Services and others within that school to see what might be done, at least in the Lincoln Public School area. I guess to tie up these points, it would be simply the following, that when we have to cut and when we have to make tough decisions, we can either have administrators in the agencies who are willing to stick their neck out, who have worked with people in the system, who are taking advice of people in the system, and they make the tough choices and say, we'll back you on those, or we'll start again to set the precedent that when it gets to be tough don't cut the tough things because you know you're going to be overturned by the Legislature, and all you've done is create a lot of hard feelings. And I think if the agency says, this is one of the things they feel needs to be cut, barring any other information of some other areas that could be cut that are more palatable, I think we should go along with what the agency says. The Director of Social Services has my utmost admiration as far as her dedication and drive to do what's right. And I think the Wesely amendment, I guess in a nutshell I oppose that and I wish the body, at a later time, does not agree to the Wesely amendment. Thank you.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. The next speaker is Senator Crosby.

**SENATOR CROSBY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I appreciate Senator Wesely bringing this amendment. And I can understand the reservations about the intent language and so on. But I do...I have had calls simply from people who have a child who has had the services of Whitehall, or is there perhaps now. The other thing I understand about Whitehall is this, that many of them are from Lincoln. But others come from other school districts, and the reason they come from other school districts,