

and, Senator Wesely, you can correct me if I'm wrong on this, but this I understood from the beginning, if they come it's because those school districts do not have facilities, nor services to cope with them, because these are...when we talk about at risk, these are at risk, definitely. I know one young man who teaches there, in particular, who does a music program, that is absolutely outstanding. And it does things for these young people that they would not get in the regular school setting because they are not capable of being part of the group for different reasons. So, for that reason, I, from the very beginning I was apprehensive and shocked, perhaps, that this was one of the ways they were going to try to cut, the Department of Social Services. The other thing I understand and I know that Senator Wesely has worked very hard, and a lot of other people with the Lincoln Public Schools to keep the program going. And you do have a problem with the teachers contracts, am I not correct, Senator? Yeah. So, I just wanted to be on record that I have heard from people and have had telephone conversations and letters and so on from people who are directly involved with a child who is at Whitehall, or who has been there, and understands what goes on there. And, of course, it costs a lot more because it's almost one-to-one, most of the time it's one-on-one. So I'll support the amendment. Thank you. Senator Wesely, if you need some time, you can have what I have left.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Wesely, you're next.

**SENATOR WESELY:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members, I appreciate the concern that was expressed by Senator Nelson, Senator Moore, and Senator Bernard-Stevens. Let me try to respond a bit. I think Senator Nelson may have misinterpreted what I was trying to do here. And I hope all of you won't misinterpret as well. I'm suggesting that certain conditions have been expressed to us as a reason to close down Whitehall School. We will save money. The children will be taken care of in local school districts adequately; that there will be other uses for the building that will be compatible; that we won't send any of these children out-of-state. All these things are what I understood to be the situation. I'm merely suggesting that, if this is the reason that we're closing the school down, then let us make sure we know that to be the case, get that confirmed to be the case, get that information sent to the Legislature, and if they meet that standard, then I'm not going to argue up here and fight against the closure. I can see that there is a lot of support for it.