

SENATOR WESELY: Well, when you're talking about the level of...we're talking \$45 million, I think, in state aid to the regions right now. If we were talking 400,000 or \$4 million, 200,000 could be a consequence and cut time, but it is inconsequential in the total amount of budget that we've got for MR. It's...your arguments, I think, are so weak, I can't understand the opposition.

SENATOR MOORE: Well, Senator Wesely, you know in the mental health region we already appropriate 122,000 this year and 90,000 next year and they said that's all they could come with. Now this is a much larger figure that that and that's the concern...

SENATOR WESELY: Oh, okay.

SENATOR MOORE: ...the behavior on the mental health side of things, but that money...

SENATOR WESELY: Let me follow up on that point because then...now there you're hitting on something more legitimate. I met last night with a number of mental retardation regional directors and they have support for this. Now the problem they've got is they hadn't heard about, we've come on with this just yesterday so they haven't had a chance to respond and I'm sure that if you had the chance to follow up, they would indicate...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...their desire to see this pursued. I mean, the indication I got last night is, they're already budgeting and spending money for voc rehab. The money is on the table. All we have to do is pick it up and use it as a match and we get four times the amount of money that we've got right now. That's exactly what I heard last night. I'm doubly concerned about not missing this opportunity and what I'd like to do is suggest that if there is any concern, this does not require them to go to that level, it authorizes them to go to that level and, obviously, if there is any problem here that I'm not aware of, we can react to that problem. So I'm just amazed I guess at this point that there is opposition to this proposal that has the chance of bringing in an additional million dollars a year from the federal government to help us with voc rehab where we've had a problem in services to the mentally retarded.