

SENATOR ROBINSON: Madam President and members of the body, I didn't understand Senator Wesely's concerns. I think the number one thing we should be thinking about are the programs that these young people are going to have, and I also commend Mary Dean Harvey for having the courage to come up and say a program should be cut. And she is also a very compassionate person and she is going to make sure that these young people are going to have an appropriate program. It is very interesting that the priority bill that I have, LB 638, addresses this exact problem, and that is to look at and monitor all young people with disabilities that are served out of their home. So, hopefully, by next year this problem will be taken care of. There will be a monitoring group that will be looking at the services these young people are receiving and also the children's, and the children, themselves. There are students in Omaha that have the same problems and the same disabilities that the young people at Whitehall have, and they are being served in residential settings, and there is no reason that they cannot be served by the Lincoln Public Schools. Sure, there is always fear and anxiety when a school is consolidated into the others, whether it is a student with disabilities or what. There is always the fear of the new and unknown. So I would go on record in support of Senator Moore's amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Robinson. Is there anyone else who wishes to speak to this amendment? Senator Moore, would you have closing?

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, I know yesterday when Senator Landis was speaking, he was passing out kudos to Senator Wesely for being more understanding than maybe some senators had been when it came to cutting things in their district, and I guess that is fine, but also, if you are going to pass out kudos, I would like to pass one out to the Director of the Department of Social Services, because unlike many agencies, Senator Wesely is right, across-the-board cuts are, indeed, the easier way and the more faithless way to do it. And one of the reasons we do that is because when you do what Director Harvey did, you have to face the action of people opposing you. And the Director, in my opinion at least, owned up. She had to cut the budget and said how she was going to do it, and I appreciate that fact, and I, for one, want to stand by her when she makes that decision. And Senator Wesely is also right that we always want to attach strings when we add money to the budget, it is not unreasonable