

into play in relationship to any types of entitlements. At that point, I may not be able to vote for the funding, but I think we also have to understand that sooner or later we, as a state, are going to have to accept the responsibility that we have for people with developmental disabilities, and it's not going to be cheap. It's going to be something that we're going to have to determine that we're going to do and we're going to have to do it. Timing, obviously, is not very good right now. We don't have any money. But I think over the years if you look at the dollar increases that we've put into spending for people with mental retardation in particular, we've kind of ignored most other people with developmental disabilities, but those people with mental retardation, most of our increases in spending has come from the federal government. We've relied on those increases to the place that we have not kept pace as a state with the increases in spending that we need to provide. Now we're going to have to pay for that and we're going to have to increase those dollars to truly provide services that deserve them within our state. So we aren't through addressing this issue and it isn't going to be easy as we get down the road, but we're going to have to do so. And I encourage you again, certainly some healthy fear in relationship to what we'll do with this bill is justified, but I hope that all of us can work together and I feel confident at this time that DPI will work very closely with us to develop a plan that's going to be good for the people that we serve, for those people with developmental disabilities in the State of Nebraska. Please advance LB 830.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Byars. Seeing no one else wishing to speak on the issue, Senator Wesely, do you have closing?

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, yes. I want to emphasize, once again, Senator Moore... I appreciate Senator Byars' work on this and Senator Moore raised some questions, but the major entitlements to this bill have been deleted. We've retained only the entitlement to case management and the transition, as you leave the school system into the service system we have in place, so the major cost of the bill as originally introduced is out and what remains I think is the essential bare minimums that we feel are important. And so, with that, we've tried as best we can to compromise with various parties and would hope very much the bill be advanced. I move for its advancement.