

SENATOR ASHFORD: Which would be about 3.15, so we would be balanced but we would be just barely balanced, a little, just a little above the 3 percent reserve. The real question, we don't know what is going to be passed between now and the end of tomorrow, so it's a very fluid situation. We know we're going to have some, most likely, some veto overrides in some of those programs, so I can't tell you exactly. It's going to be close.

SENATOR ABOUD: Thank you. Colleagues, I...my feeling is this. I don't have any bills that are before the body that have appropriations, but I know there are a number of you that do, and a number of those bills will be vetoed for financial purposes only. My concern is that there will be an occasional bill that will be overridden and it could result in the state not having a balanced budget, could result in the state having to be called...or our Legislature being called back into special session some time before next January to do that act of balancing the budget and make the necessary cuts somewhere down before January. And, for that reason, I view it as I know it's important to some individuals in this body and some school districts in this state, but we have an obligation to balance the budget and, for that reason, I'm going to be supporting the amendment onto LB 719. Thank you.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Abboud. Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, as you know, Senator Ashford and I have been going around on this for, I don't know, several weeks and I know...I know the situation. A lot of people are out there that want A bills passed and there are a couple of them that I'd like passed. I make no bones about it. But let's focus on what the situation is. We are taking money away from schools that...in which the money is used to support foster care. I had a letter from Father Val Peter from Boys Town and I'd like to read this and, hopefully, you would listen. Boys Town operates a treatment/foster care program in southeastern Nebraska. He goes on and says, it's very difficult to recruit foster parents to help us with the needed treatment for these children. Even after recruiting and training foster parents, additional reluctance of many school districts to provide the needed educational programs for these children happens with serious learning and behavioral problems. If school districts do not want to take these children, how much more reluctant will they be if educational funding is no longer available to them? So I think the situation gets down to this.