

just isn't accurate and it isn't going to happen. And these school districts, especially the school districts that get equalization aid are going to be making up and that's, obviously, most of them, and they're going to be making up all of this, most of this cut anyway. When we make a decision in this body next year about what we are going to be cutting we're going to have to make some very difficult choices. We're going to have to determine whether or not a program still fulfills its original public policy purpose. This, the original public policy purpose behind this bill was to provide impact aid for group homes. Not one dime or one nickel of money is going to be taken out of this program that is allocated for group homes and it shouldn't be and it's not going to be. We also have to decide whether or not a dollar spent on a program is getting a dollar in return and I would suggest to you that this program does not return the kind of dollars in savings or in output that a program of this magnitude should receive. And, thirdly, after we've looked at all of the potential criteria that we want to use in balancing whether or not we're going to have to make a cut and this is the only issue before this body this year where we're really talking about cuts is, in your gut, is this a program worth \$1.7 million? Is this program worth \$5 million, or can they get along with 3.5 million, or 3.4? And I would suggest to you that they can do it very well and that the original intent of this program can be easily maintained, can be easily maintained. And as we look down the road to next year, if we come out of this session without taking a hard look at any programs except to increase them, we're going to pay a heavy price next year when we have to start looking very hard at a lot more programs than this that have a lot more impact on a lot of people. And I'm a supporter of the foster care program. Foster care loses not one dime. The foster care program loses not one dime out of this cut. State aid has increased substantially in the last couple of years. This program is a pre-1059 program.

SENATOR CONWAY: One minute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: With that, I'd give Senator Moore my last few seconds. Thank you.

SENATOR CONWAY: Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. President and members, oftentimes when you talk about budget reductions everybody says, well, it's better to have a specific reduction instead of an across-the-board