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I...first of all I appreciate what Senator Byars and Senator Schmit are saying and I don't want to give the impression to either of them that this is not tough. I brought this to the body because I felt that it was a program that had gone beyond its original intent. The original intent of the program was to fund group homes and institutions, not residential placements. It is tough and what Senator Byars is talking about, and Senator Schmit, is absolutely right, it's tough, and it's not any less tough because it's foster care children. I don't want to give that impression. If I've given that impression in the past, it's because I've talked about this too much, I'm sure. But I would like to just make a few points and that is that the overall budget for foster care in the State of Nebraska is \$19 million. In addition to that, there is the wards of the court program which is an additional \$5 million. The '92-93 budget is 19 million. That includes family foster care, group homes and institutions. On top of that is the wards of the court program. The wards of the court program was initially implemented for institutions and residential care. The additional amount that was put in for foster care children was an add-on to that. Each foster family receives \$222 per child. That's not enough, I'm sure, but it is the state participation. It's not as if the state is not taking an active role in foster care. Finally, when the child does go into the public school and lives in a foster care home, they receive state aid. They receive state aid for that child at the state aid formula amount and not at an exaggerated amount which is what the state wards program funds. So, for all those reasons, that's why we chose this program to cut and not because it wasn't tough and not because foster care families don't do a wonderful job and take on a tremendous obligation and responsibility. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. President and members of the body, just a couple of things. I turned my light on to clarify the exchange between Senator Schmit and Senator Moore. I think Senator Moore answered the questions accurately but perhaps the impression that left...was left from that would be other than what is reality. I mean, I suppose the answer that these kids, if the state doesn't pay through state ward of the court that the local school districts have to pay it through property taxes on the surface may appear to be the right answer but, in reality, keep in mind that when this ward of the court program was