

shakes your head at, because I understand the need to cut the budget, but, in this case, when you cut the dollar or the dollars away from here, for each dollar you cut, you lose almost \$4 in federal funding that is matched to this. So, basically, you are kicking away from the State of Nebraska almost \$3 million when you cut the \$750,000 in here for Vocational Rehabilitation. Now thinking back just a few days and weeks to Senator Chambers' bill on Maximus, we can all recall that the Governor came in and we eventually agreed that we need to maximize federal dollars, that we need to take these different programs and use our existing dollars and match those dollars and not waste the money that's due to the people of the State of Nebraska, that we send back to the federal government that ought to be coming on back home to us, and to then turn around and to have this money cut that would take us to the cap that is available to the State of Nebraska in order to maximize these federal funds, to cut that out of the budget doesn't make any sense at all to me. It ties into the need to provide for transition services to those that are developmentally disabled and in special education. This will allow us to save money with special education. If we can take our kids that are now in our schools in special ed, and we can give them vocational rehabilitation training, this is one of the things we are trying to move toward, and use the federal dollars as a match and get the job done and move these people out of the schools and into the community with a job, we save money in terms of the state in terms of special education, and we do it using federal dollars. It makes absolute sense to me that we move forward. There are other things that need to be done as well. When we talk about who is served by this, keep in mind we are talking about not only the developmentally disabled, but we are talking about the mentally ill, the head injured, the spinal cord injury, and anybody else out there that's got a disability. They have the ability to access vocational rehabilitation. They get training to handle a job. They go out and get a job, and what they find is that the money we spent on the training pays for itself in a little over two and a half years, something like two and a half years time. So it's an investment. It's not money thrown at a problem. It's money spent with individuals with disabilities, give them skills. They go out and work, and we get our money though the jobs and the taxes that are created through this investment. It's one of the best programs that we've had, one of the most successful ones we've had, and we have been the state that has taken advantage of it the least, perhaps. We have, as I said, we have not maximized, and in the last five