

years as the handout talks about, we have taken \$8 million that was due to us and just said, no thanks, and that money has gone back to the federal government, and then what the federal government does, it doesn't reduce their spending. They don't cut the 8 million out of the budget. They turn around and reallocate it back to other states that need more money. So the money that we take away from our citizens by not maximizing on Vocational Rehabilitation goes to Kansas, and Missouri, and other states that have really taken advantage of this program, and maximized out, and then asked for more. So money that Nebraskans pay in federal taxes don't come back to us but they go to other states because we have not done the job in getting the funding that needs to be done for this. It's the highest match of any federal program that I know of. The match isn't like in the Medicaid program, the match is about a dollar and a half to every dollar we spend, it is about a 60-40 match. Here the match is almost, as I said, it's about \$3.61 to every \$1 we spend. So compare that to Medicaid, you can see that for every \$1 we spend, we get a huge return on it in federal funding. It is...has been a disappointment to me...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...in this Legislature that we haven't done more. In fact, when we passed the Developmental Disabilities Act back in '91, one of the things we put into the bill was that the Department of Education and the Department of Public Institutions will work together and try and maximize this money. We have failed to accomplish that goal. It has not happened as we thought it would. So this money is absolutely vital to take advantage of a program that is vital to those that are disabled, and wanting to work, and needing the assistance and skills to do so. I would ask you to strongly support the Vocational Rehabilitation override as part of this amendment, and I hope that if you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer them, but I truly think that this is one area that makes the very most sense to move forward with and fund fully as the Appropriations Committee had with the original budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, and members of the body, I can't disagree with a thing that Senator Hall and Senator Chambers and Senator Wesely have said. I just hope the body understands, I am not going to take a position on this, but I