

juvenile services, and they spend a tremendous amount of money in Douglas County in these areas. We have voted through a bond issue to have a new facility in Douglas County, so our people are concerned and are doing something about it. But what I am saying is because you are hitting them from the county sector, from the state sector, from the juvenile sector, from the education sector, from the health and human services, from the depar...you know, all these different departments, and now LB 1044 coming in to say even though we are already doing things in all these different areas, if that thing goes through, you are going to have all this money and all these people funneled into this appointed by the Governor board, who is going to be making budget decisions. So even though you are making...think you are making a budget decision with this bill, and you think you're giving them money for all of these different programs and these pilot programs, the eventual decision, if that piece of legislation goes through, will not be yours. We are going to have administrative decisions, not legislative decisions. That's what's occurring. That is what is occurring at an alarming rate here in the state of Nebraska and we don't have a lot of leeway to be making mistakes with our budgets,...

SENATOR COORDSEN: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: ...to be spending money that we don't even know where it's going and whether it's effectively spent, even though I have the assurances of an overburdened Appropriations Committee that stays late at night, that has to come in out of their civilian jobs, and try to re...you know, try to make some sense of all of this. I still would like, with my amendment, some assurances from those individuals who are involved in these areas that if your expenses go up at an alarming rate, how you are spending them and how we can save money, and also, Senator Bernard-Stevens, if you have your light on, I'd like an answer to the question of how many juveniles are we serving with that \$5.361 million? How many kids are we taking care of? Are we taking care of a lot of kids with that kind of money or are we taking care of a lot of...a lot of programs that have started and a lot...a lot of contracted services that have started out there in Nebraska? So how many kids are we actually serving with \$5.3 million, and why do you need more money to serve them is what I want to know? Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Witek. Before we proceed,