

end of the '94-95, the state has gone up to \$93.6 million and the counties are at \$9,012,000. So they've stayed steady to a slight drop. And I understand these fluctuate, based on what counties can do. They have the same dilemmas that we do on how to fund. But I believe that does indicate that the state has kept its commitment to this area and has increased, in this particular case nearly \$12 million in just five years. That's a fairly significant increase. And even though we struggle every year to fund that, I acknowledge that, we... I think the record is, is fairly good on this count. So to say that the state hasn't kept faith and hasn't done all its share I don't think is accurate. Now whether we've done everything that we should do, like we have every other program, I suppose that's always open for discussion. Certainly we can put more money into nearly everything. But I think there's been a good faith effort to do our share and I think it's time for a bill like this. I think we have to move forward. Change is not easy for most of us to do, but I think this is an opportune time to move forward and do some changing in this area, see if it'll work. I said my amendment will take it to July 1, 1999, which will slow up the phase in, if you will. We'll have a better chance, I hope, to understand what the feds are going to do. It looks like to me that we are not going to know now until next November or December, even if at that point, as to what's going to happen at the federal level. So we have quite a few things that are going to be changing and coming and I know money's going to be a huge issue at that time, but I believe that this is an area that we've got to try and make some improvements and get some efficiencies if we're going to be ready for what's, what's coming in terms of financial aid in this particular area. Much like I think in 1044, we've got to try to adopt and be ready to adopt and keep our...keep our sight not only on the bottom line, which is important, but also to provide those services that those people are deserving of them, they are...that they get those too.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Mr. Clerk.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Mr. President, Senator Wesely would move to amend the committee amendments. (See FA578 on page 1504 of the Legislative Journal.)

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Senator Wesely, to open on your amendment.