

my point, when we first started on this and was working...were working with the Highway Department, I think it's been about four years ago, to help Lincoln and Omaha in particular. A lot of disabled people and people who, low income, who don't have cars and so on in both those cities use the bus to get to work or wherever they need to go. It's not the most convenient form of transportation and a lot of us wouldn't take advantage of it because we'd have to set our schedule to the bus schedule. Along with that, when we first got the federal money, there were some matching funds, I know, and I don't have all that in front of me, but we got the buses with the lifts on them so the wheelchairs could go on. So I just think that's really important for the people who don't have the means of transportation that most of us enjoy. So I just am against this amendment. I'm sure there's other ways we might be able to cut the budget if Senator Avery's intent on that, but not from...not with this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body, I rise in opposition to the amendment, but I'd like, first of all, to ask Senator Wehrbein just a little bit more about the history of this provision that does provide some money to the cities because I'm, personally, unfamiliar with it. And if you'd just go back in time a little bit,...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: All right.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members, up through FY '84-85 we appropriated \$1.8 million of General Funds to this program. In FY '85-86 we eliminated the General Fund appropriation. And then in 1991-92, it was...we did return to funding this to the tune of \$500,000. In '93-94 we cut it back to \$475,000. And so we had a history of funding it fairly heavy in the past. Because of the severe budget cuts in the late eighties it was totally reduced. In '94...'91-92, we restored partial funding to this area and that's the way it has been since.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: But to reiterate what this money is for...Senator Wehrbein, you and I just had this discussion, it