

dollars then in the community-based area if they felt...so desired?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Right, that is right, and I stated that.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: They could.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay, I appreciate that, and if you want any time to...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, I have my light punched. I simply wanted to say this...this program is \$51.4 million, and so it is an area that we felt there was some flexibility there. We did not want it to be at the expense of community-based programs, which, as Senator Wesely said, is the way that we are headed. We felt it was appropriate to keep the emphasis on community-based programs, with that kind of fund, \$51.4 million...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time. Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Wehrbein announces that the following guests are visiting the Legislature. There are 25 fourth graders here from Weeping Water Elementary School in Weeping Water, Nebraska, with their teacher. And Jerry Schmitt, Senator Schmitt announces that the following guests are visiting the Legislature, there are 10 students from Wheeler Central in Bartlett, Nebraska, with their sponsor. They are all in the north balcony. Will you stand and be recognized, please. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Warner, your light is next.

SENATOR WARNER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I appreciate the manner in which Senator Wehrbein has explained the options to us. I think he has presented the options very thoroughly. I am also impressed with Senator Wesely's comments relative to the transition period. I guess I am going to come down on the opposite conclusion, though, as an end result and sustain the ability of the Director of DPI to have flexibility. It would seem to me that...that as we are in transition periods, as you are looking for ways to try to make the state and local government or government more efficient, one of the ways that you just have to accept along the line is to giving the administrators in some of these areas greater flexibility to