

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I just want to make a couple more comments. This goes for children and adult mental health programs, community-based programs. Senator Warner, is right, I can't argue with part of this is really where you want to have the emphasis and where you want to continue the emphasis in programming. It's true that they, even without this earmark some of this money could go into that program. We just felt that at this point with the emphasis on community-based programs, that it's...we didn't want to reduce those fundings. Since we are on the path of increasing community-based programs, this just simply said that you will continue at least that, and it is kind of where your philosophy is going to be. If you want to continue a strong endorsement of community-based mental health programs for children and adults, or if you want to slow that up somewhat because, obviously, we are on a path toward that, this just kept us on the path, on a more steady course. By removing the earmark, there is more flexibility for the agency, but it would not be clear as to where the cuts would be. Obviously, community-based programs would be part of that potential cut.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Madam President, and I rise, again, to support the comments that Chairman Wehrbein has indicated, and would like to ask him one...one question. Senator Wehrbein.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Wehrbein, do you yield to a question?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Is this \$1 million that we are looking at vetoing this year, is this close to the additional funds that the Legislature put in last year for this specific area?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: They increased last year about...a million dollars, so it's approximately the same we increased last year.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: So in essence, what we put in last year as a commitment to trying to do more in the area of mental health we are taking out this year, and thank you for that...that confirmation. One of the reasons why I think I support the