

that money. And at the time I would say, I will do everything I can to try and hang onto it. I am afraid that we are going to have a veto of some of it. I even wrote the numbers out, \$3,170,295, I have little faces and legs, little stick people out of those numbers. That's what I've got to talk to you about this morning and try to make you feel what I feel is that these are people we're talking about and I know it costs a lot. LB 830 was the beginning. Senator Wesely worked very hard to try and get, and it took years for us to get some money into that bill. So I just feel this is a real setback for a group of people who need to be served and those people who serve them need to be paid. So I'm going to stop there. Senator Maurstad, would you like part of this time or would... would you like part of this time? I'll yield whatever time I have left to Senator Maurstad, Madam President. I'll yield whatever time I have left to Senator Maurstad.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Maurstad. Senator Maurstad, there are four and a half minutes remaining.

SENATOR CROSBY: Good, thank you.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Crosby. To start off with, I do also want to recognize Senator Wesely's work in this particular area, of course, along with my predecessor, Senator Byars; and it has been certainly something that has been a long time coming for those people that are most affected by these decisions in our state. This has been a long struggle. There, of course, was a great deal of what I'll classify as fanfare last year when the Legislature, in cooperation with the Governor, developed the blueprint, gave people hope. It gave people the feeling that maybe the Legislature was finally understanding what a critical issue that this presents. And, of course, I feel a key component of that is the pay equity issue. I want to make sure everybody understands, I'm sure they do, but I just want to make sure everybody understands this is not a BSDC issue other than the fact that we're trying to treat those individuals that are serving the developmentally disabled that are not state employees at least somewhat closer in the area of pay than what the individuals at BSDC receive. And, of course, that's not an extraordinary amount to start with and so then when we pay individuals that are doing the same types of tasks, providing service to the best of their abilities at \$6 an hour, you know, you can understand why there continues to be turnover,