

why there continues to be concerns with the level of quality of service that these individuals receive. I mean this is really a fundamental issue. It's going to make it very difficult for us to continue to make progress on the blueprint if we don't in fact stay with what the legislative intent was last year in our appropriations bill when we adopted the statement, it is the intent of the Legislature that the methodology rates for developmentally disabled services for FY '95-96 be adjusted to reflect a 4 percent salary increase for state employees and the methodology for FY '96-97 be adjusted for 3.5 percent. And then it talks about the methodology in the next paragraph and it's the intent of the Legislature that for all services to a minimum of 75 percent of methodology in the first year, to 80 percent the second year, we made that part of our intent. Now I have to question, does...you know, when we include things as this is what our intent is, does that mean anything? That's what's important to me in this particular issue. We go on in the next paragraph and we indicate that it's our intent, although I recognize we can't bind future legislatures, that we go to 85 percent in '97-98, and 90 percent in the next year.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: We continue to make progress. We set out a plan. Less than one year later we're backing up. It's important to me especially in areas like this where we're trying to address those individuals that are citizens of the state of Nebraska that are the least able themselves to put forth an argument, that are the most vulnerable to these types of budget decisions that less than one year later we're willing to back up on that intent, back up on that commitment. What type of hope, what type of message does that send not only to the people affected by this particular override, but anybody that deals with the State Legislature? It would seem to me the logical conclusion was it doesn't mean a thing what they say in there relative to their intent because not only will they back out, more than likely they'll back out especially when it affects people that don't have the representation that other citizens of this state have.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time. Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator Bohlke announces that there are 22 fourth graders here from Wood River Elementary School in Wood River, Nebraska, with their teacher. Senator Schellpeper announces that there are four