

second through sixth graders here from District 6 School in Pierce, Nebraska, with their teacher. And Senator Elmer announces that there are nine seventh and eighth graders here from Gold Plains Christian School in Grant, Nebraska, with their teacher. Will you all stand and be recognized, please. Welcome to the Nebraska Legislature. Senator Stuhr, your light is next.

SENATOR STUHR: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I will be supporting this override. I want to support the comments that have been previously stated by the senators before me. It personally affects my district in the fact that we do have a Martin Luther Home that is providing wonderful services for people with special needs, and that home has been in York for the last 13 years. We're getting new businesses into our community and I feel it's very important that we stay competitive with these other businesses. There is a special dedication from those people that do serve, and I feel that we must continue our pledge with the rate equity funds that have been allowed for the developmental disabled service providers. I think that there definitely is...I feel very strongly that there is a link between the funding rates and the waiting list. And if we are going to have staff commitment from the people that work, at this point they are only receiving from \$5 to \$6 an hour, and I feel that we need to support this override. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Jones.

SENATOR JONES: Madam President and members of the body, I'm going to have to stand and support this override. I sure don't like to do that on overrides, but this is something I think that we as senators has got to look at because, really because these people are people out there that cannot help themselves and I think it's responsibility as us, as state senators, to be able to help them. And this started clear back in LB 830 with Wesely and I think it should be continued, and we made our commitment last year and Dennis Byars had that one in 1136 that really did help a lot and so that kind of set things a going. But I still think we should keep it going because these people are special people that's working in these places and I think they really have to be committed and the turnover is so great, and I think we got to get that salary up high enough so that turnover is not so great. I've had more phone calls and more letters just over the weekend wanting me to support an override. I realize that