

effort, that there's no way that this nor any other veto will be overridden. That in fact we can't begin the stream that would cause the banks to overflow. I don't agree with that, and I don't agree with that because I believe that the arguments that are presented in this particular situation to override this particular veto are stronger than the arguments that can be made from a fiscal perspective only. And I have faith in the members of this Legislature to know when they hear valid arguments that they will in fact vote the right way. And I think this is anything but a futile effort. We talk about priorities. It always seems to me that it's usually been a basic principle of budgeting not only in government but in other cases that if you continue to believe in a particular program that you continue to fund that particular program before you get involved in new spending on new programs. And in fact last year when we developed this two-year budget, there was very little money put in the budget for new spending or what would be considered an expansion. This is one of those critical areas where it did occur. But this year, of course, anybody wants to look on the backside of the April 18 agenda with bills with General Fund impact, you can see a number of bills passed that created new spending in a number of areas. I'm not saying that's not correct or not right or wasn't prudent or responsible of the Legislature to do. But I would say we have well over \$12 million in new things, different priorities, different considerations than what we had in the commitment made in this particular area. I think it's important that we set priorities. It's very difficult. The Governor, of course, had the ability. He could have continued with the course that was presented last year by the appropriations bill that was adopted, the principles of the blueprint and could have found this money from a variety of areas. He could have taken little bits from here and there and not had near the impact that this will have on these particular individuals, their families, their loved ones, and the communities that they live in. If we're going to continue to make progress on reducing the waiting list, we have to provide the foundation to provide the services so those people have someone to go to for assistance. It's not a chicken or egg situation. This has to continue, if not, that blueprint will not...progress will not be made in that blueprint. The Governor indicated in his message to us dated April 15, his veto message, that a reduction of \$3,170,295 General Fund was made in the rate equity funding for providers.