

that I handed out there's a number down, total General Funds needed. What we actually would need would be \$5,347,968. So the Governor left only \$3.1 million which is what I'm trying to override and so we know we're going to be short by at least \$2.2 million. We'll have many employees who will be below the 75 percent reimbursement rate. All that does is widen the disparity. It doesn't help. As I said before, I pointed out, I handed out to you Craig Tiedtke's letter. I think he points out that he believes the Governor's veto, if it's sustained, the entire funding mechanism is at stake since the veto funding level will not accommodate a 3.5 percent adjustment with 75 percent methodology you know longer have a viable funding mechanism. Sheryl Montgomery (phonetic) from Region IV in Oakland says, we are in competition with a provider who is paid \$3.19 an hour more for these services. The state pays that \$3.19. So you see what these people in the rural areas, in the rural regions are up against. She feels they can't bring people, qualified people, into the services at the present rate. So we need to keep this plan going on the methodology that we set up last year and that we set up in the budget last year and that we tried to continue in our deficit budget that we're looking at right now. Again, I'll read that number. The 1995-96 appropriation was reduced by 1.8 because those funds weren't used. Then we put in, we recommended 6.4 for '96-97 which would continue the phase-in of rate equity to 80 percent for both current services and expanded services under the blueprint, assuming full implementation of the blueprint on January 1, 1997. Again I say think of these numbers as people because we are providing funds for the people who provide the services and we're providing funds for those people who receive the services. It's all people. I know a lot of the funding that we do maybe is on resources and so on. You don't think of that as people. Well, in a way everything we do, even natural resources, water and so on, that all affects people. So remember in this particular instance these are people who find it difficult to help themselves because of a mental handicap or a physical challenge that they can't cope with without help. So again I just ask you to support, support this override. We'll come out...I don't think the sky is falling, I really don't. I am not a Chicken Little. I never feel that way because I always have hope that things will get better and who knows what's going to come. The Forecasting Board, that's all it is. It's a forecast. So we have to see what comes in and next year we can cope, but I do really feel strongly that today we need to