

in federal money is being spent and the counties who now control the service system through these regional governing boards spend less than \$3 million. So the state of Nebraska is spending over ten times as much money as the counties are to support the needs of the developmentally disabled. And the system is not operated by the state. It is operated by the counties through these regional governing boards. Now the defeat of LB 1059 defeated the attempt to try and bring together different services that we have in health and human services so we can have a coordinated system. And I know Senator Crosby didn't like that, I understand that. But I do feel that we needed to take that step so we can have a handle and know what we're getting for our money and have control over a system that we largely fund. But because that was defeated, we're left with a situation where these regions that exist, and that's who we're funding through this program, who now in my view do not have the oversight from the public and the oversight from the state that we should have with the amount of money that's being spent. They'll continue as they have in the past, but I will not. I will not continue to fund and support additional funding for these programs until the state, which is providing the largest share of the costs will have some control over the spending of that money. The counties have spent slightly under \$3 million starting in '90-91 and currently spend slightly under \$3 million now three years later, four years later. There has not been any additional money, in fact, there's less money coming from the counties. So my suggestion is, yes, we do need a salary increase. Yes, we do not have adequate pay for on-line, first-line support for the developmentally disabled. But let's turn to the counties in these regions that want to continue to control the system and suggest that they put up a little bit more money. We're putting up more. We've put more money into this. The blueprint is being funded. We're putting in additional money for pay equity. The state of Nebraska has been responding and I applaud the Appropriations Committee. I applaud the Legislature. I applaud the Governor who has supported some of those. But on the other side of the coin, the counties who continue to not want to give up to the regions the control of this system ought now be asked to help us with the pay question. We do need higher pay. We should support higher pay. I do not oppose that effort. I think that that is in fact the direction we need to take and I applaud again Senator Crosby and Senator Maurstad for raising the issue and making that point. The point I'm making in counter to that is until the system changes, the counties who