

I am more than willing to continue to look at the ideas that he presented in LB 1059. It's no secret that I share some of the concerns that Senator Wesely has relative to that particular situation. I do not see a connection with that and what we're discussing here with the pay equity other than it would be, as he indicated, to make a point. I don't think we should make a point on this particular issue. We're talking about 30 cents per hour for these workers. We're talking about 30 cents an hour for a group of people that many times would do and perform tasks that we wouldn't think of doing. They have their heart in their work. This is a minute step in recognizing the importance that they provide to this particular situation. It's also... I mean it's just not feasible at this time. I mean what kind of message are we sending when we adopt spending lids, levy limitations, and then say, however, but in this particular area, local government, you've got to come up with more money? So people understand that this issue is not going to go away as LB 1189 indicates, I for one would intend that we would start out next year at 85 percent. Now if things occur that some feel they will relative to the economy or whatever, that's going to be a substantial amount of money that's not going to allow other things to progress next year. I believe we've made a commitment so if this is not overridden, you know, we're not going to start out at 72 percent or whatever next year. We're going to start out at 85 percent, what the intent of the legislation was. And finally, I can't do it near as well as Senator Crosby, but I want to again focus on the people that we're trying to assist, those that are least able to fend for themselves relative to affecting this process. Little successes to us are significant successes to them. They're significant accomplishments to them. They can feel as though they are a valued member of this society. They can be proud of what they've done. They deserve respect from all of us and we should give them that respect. They deserve the self-esteem that occurs when they're able with assistance of somebody that's dedicated to helping them accomplish something. They deserve the self-esteem that goes along with those accomplishments just like every one of us when we happen to get lucky and accomplish something. Once again, I would say that we certainly have a commitment here. I hope we stay with that commitment. I hope that we recognize that these are people that only can have relatives and friends attempt to advocate for them. And, of course, then they have a self-interest, but wouldn't you if you had a son or a daughter or a sister or a brother or a mother or a father that had this