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between. Why is respite so important? Respite is so important because families caring for someone with special needs in their home often live with very high levels of emotional, physical and financial stress. And because of the demands of that ongoing care, many families don't have the occasional short-term periods of rest and relief that are so important to them to be able to maintain their own health and some sort of stability within their families. But by providing breaks to the family, breaks from this routine, respite services become a very vital support line for families to provide continued care in the home. And I think at this point it is good that we talk about the fiscal impact of this legislation. I've had conversations with the Chair of the Appropriations Committee, Senator Wehrbein, so that I can hopefully continue to clarify the reasons and the justifications for the A bill that will not follow today but will come later on this piece of legislation. I certainly, as all of you, are constantly reminded, and I appreciate the reminders of the Chairman and the members of the Appropriations Committee that we have to be mindful of our resources, we have to be mindful of what we're going to have available to us to spend within this biennium. And I hope I'll be able to make the case to you that the dollars that I'm asking for in this respite bill are an investment in the people and the financial well-being of the state of Nebraska, and not an expense, but an investment. And I would like to talk about that just a bit. When we look at the cost of out-of-home, Medicaid, nursing home dollars on average to people in our state, we're seeing averages now on a yearly basis approaching somewhere from 40 to \$48,000 a year, out-of-home care. When you look at an American Medical Journal study which talks about spouse caregivers of individual...of individuals with Alzheimer's disease, they found that caregivers who have received supportive services kept their loved ones at home approximately 329 days longer than they typically would have. This is almost a year's time. If you'd place that loved one in an institutionalized or a community-based setting of some sort, you're talking, remember, an average cost of approximately 45 to 48,000 dollars a year. What we're asking for and what we've seen on average in programs that have been established across the country is that a couple of hundred dollars a month spent on respite care for these same families can enable these individuals to live in that home at least that much longer. If you compare that investment, let's