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serve 22 counties here in Nebraska. In Broken Bow, they serve 33 clients. These are mentally retarded adults. And they employ 33 full- and part-time employees. If you look at the money in this amendment, that would help to improve the salaries of these employees who are the direct line staff, and these are the people that work directly with the clients. The average starting salary for these direct line staff people in the state is \$8.33 an hour. In Broken Bow at Mid-Nebraska Individual Services, the starting salary for these direct line people who work directly with clients is only \$6.75 an hour. As you all know, these positions are needed, but they are also difficult to fill. And if these providers cannot offer a decent wage to employ people to work with these clients, then it will be the clients, and ultimately the communities, that will suffer. Is Senator Pederson here? Would he yield to a question, please?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Pederson, would you yield to a question?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: I'd be glad to.

SENATOR FISCHER: Thank you. Senator Pederson, I was...I've been told, and I don't know if this is correct or not, but I was told that we will get a federal match with the expenditure of the state's General Funds in regard to this.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: There are federal matches, but I...it's a Medicaid match that goes to this.

SENATOR FISCHER: Medicaid match. Okay, the numbers that I was...thank you very much, Senator.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you.

SENATOR FISCHER: The numbers that I was sent by a constituent was if the developmental disability providers, if they are moved to that 3 percent in the '05-06 budget, that would mean approximately \$640,000 in General Funds that would need to be spent, and the federal match would be about \$950,000. And for the fiscal year '06-07, it would mean a General Fund expenditure of about \$1.6 million,...