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SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR FISCHER: ...with a federal match of \$2.6 million. And I would like to check those figures with Senator Pederson. I just received them over the noon hour. But as you can see, if these are correct, and I will check those with him, then I think it would be a good investment for the state, and we are getting some matching funds at a higher rate and from the federal government, and I think that would be very beneficial. But I think the bottom line on this is, is we need to pay those employees that are dealing with clients who are in desperate need of these services. Thank you very much, Mr. President. I will return the rest of my time to the Chair.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Fischer. On with discussion, Senator Engel. Is Senator Engel on the floor? I do not see him. We will pass over him for the moment. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. I stand in support of the Byars amendment, and I do so with mixed emotions because I, too, like Senator Fischer, would like to thank the Appropriations Committee for what they've done. They've really taken a step forward. And I'd also like to thank Senator Byars, of course. My interest in this stems not only from the interest in developmental disabilities but the fact that there are other providers out there also who have been contacting me. And I suspect that their concerns are the same concerns as those who provide for those with developmental disabilities. But there is a litany of worries that providers in general have, including food costs which have gone up 25 percent in the last four years; insurance costs which have skyrocketed since 9-11; workers' compensation which has increased over 100 percent; property taxes, utility charges, motor fuel costs, all have risen over normal inflation rates. In fact, this says, this particular letter from this provider says the Legislature added a 7 percent sales tax to all our service vendors. Staff costs have increased by 35 percent. And I...there's a whole list here. I'm not going to go through all of that. But the point is, I think that their remuneration has