## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

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start to go through these, because one at a time, everybody has a compelling reason why we should add to the amount of money. And certainly, you can pick on developmental disability, and there isn't anybody that isn't in favor of supporting that. you remember how tough it is to get the first peanut out of the jar, but once it opens, they kind of flow very freely, and I just don't want to see that happen to our budget because I think it's destructive. Now, over the noon hour, in visiting with the Fiscal Office, I was made aware of the fact that in the program for developmental disability, and Senator Byars alluded to that, there is money left over. And that money that's left over, if it's structured appropriately, could be used for this salary situation. It's...I'm very surprised. It seems to me it's a problem of management to a certain extent, in that we have somewhere between \$3 million and \$10 million in that fund available, and they have a waiting list. But the reason that it hasn't been spent is because they haven't been serving the people on the waiting list. So I think there's a management concern that I have in regard to this, and I don't know that Senator Byars disagrees with that particularly. I think it's something that needs to be addressed. But also, you know, we're talking about...I mean, the people here that have been speaking speak very fluently and very concerned manner about the people who are providing services for the developmentally disabled. I'm with you on that. I agree with that situation. However, it isn't like they have been totally deprived. I mentioned, when I spoke earlier, that actually, when it comes to this rate equity situation, we funded this particular agency, as well as the others, at 98.75. And the concern is it didn't get to 100. And I think that that's a problem, because if we go to and if we go using the same process that Senator Byars is referring to on developmental disability, I would feel very strongly that we would have to go back to all of those providers that got a 2 percent because the differential is what the state paid, which is 3 percent and 3.25 percent this year and next year, so I think that we would have to consider strongly adding to the money that would go to all of the other providers. haven't heard from them one at a time, but they all could come in and tell you what they do and how they are not able to complete the work that they are supposed to do. So I just think that's a deep concern that I have, and that's a concern I think