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on AM1470.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise because I'd like to share some information with this body, those of you who might remember and those of you who don't. I'm certainly empathetic, being a former county board chair, with the participation with the state on these types of issues and how important they are, but I feel it's necessary that this body remembers something that's happened in the last fiscal year with Lancaster County. Lancaster County used this issue, and it was part of their...the press coverage, they used this issue as their excuse to discontinue funding of their share of funding for persons with developmental disabilities in Lancaster County. Originally, in this year's budget they cut out the entire amount. Then, after a number of persons who provided disability services and people with disabilities appealed to the board, they reinstated it for a six-month period, but those dollars were completely cut off as of January 1. Now, the figure that's roaming around in my head is somewhere around \$500,000 or \$600,000 that they reduced and, in effect, to get even with us, I guess, although they, the people that suffer, again, obviously, are those who can't speak for themselves, and those are persons with disabilities. And I want you to keep this in mind as you make your consideration of this amendment. I can't speak for all the counties. I know my county obviously loses, has lost dollars and in the fourth quarter will receive none. I certainly don't want that to happen. I, as a taxpayer who pay taxes in Gage County, will be affected. But I want to let you know, and as I was lobbied, I told the representatives of Lancaster County that before I can support this amendment I need at least some member of their board to make a commitment to me that they will come back in, in this year's budget, and restore the dollars that they have taken away from persons with developmental disabilities. I don't think I need to probably spend any more time on my reasoning. I will vote against the amendment because of that reason. If, in the time that we have debate on this, I get some assurance from someone from Lancaster County that they will not use the most vulnerable as blackmail, they will not use the most vulnerable to punish the state of Nebraska for not funding their share of jail expenses, if I get some assurance from them, then I will change my opinion. But at