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are completing now, the 2004-2005 budget, it was...it was discovered that out of the \$5 million that were used out of the Tobacco Settlement Fund to fund the waiting list for persons with developmental disabilities, there would be a carryover of approximately \$2 million that wasn't utilized in the last Now, I'll tell you first, because the first question biennium. is, how come we need money if we didn't spend what we had? It's a different issue, number one, but number two, we had three the department of Developmental directors of Disabilities, we had, unfortunately, a considerable amount of confusion with the director of Health and Human Services at that point, and dollars that should have been expended weren't. Those dollars that are appropriated in the budget, and we're moving forward in this year's budget, will be utilized, but they were not appropriately utilized in the last biennium. Because of that, we have \$2 million, and I'll tell you very honestly they're one-time funds, that we could use to fund rate equity over the next two years. Now, the argument becomes, and one I've had with myself and I'm sure Senator Pederson will raise it also, is the fact that once we do this then we set ourselves on a track of, in the next biennium, of that becoming a part of the base budget. Well, I don't have a problem with that because that's what we promised a long time ago and if, as we've been discussing over the past six or eight hours fulfilling our promises and what's in statute, that's what we have done, that's what we have promised, and I want to fulfill that promise. Now, in talking to the providers of service who are the ones who work so hard to try to find the individuals to fill these positions, they say, Senator, we'll take a chance on that two years. Anything that we can do to help hire direct care staff will be a tremendous advantage. I found, as I started to research and visit, and I'm telling you honestly that the new director of department of Developmental Disabilities and the new director of Health and Human Services have been totally cooperative with me and working in trying to find the solution to this issue. problem that we have was not created by them, and I trust them very much to move forward in a positive manner for doing the services that we promised for our most vulnerable citizens. But found out at BSDC, when we've talked entry level wages, a Tech I wage, that Tech I wage down there is \$8 an hour. They can't hire anybody. Nobody will come into the service and come