

believe in what you want to do. I want to believe in what you want to do, but I do have some questions, some of which, I've had two answers to it already and I'd like to have you, probably on the record on this. One of my concerns is that has happened so often to us as we get into this is money becomes available, in this case, the Medicaid funds. We also know that there is strong rumors, if not fact, that within two or three years Medicaid system, as we know it today, will not be there. What are the chances of the State of Nebraska being required to pick this up down the road from General Funds if we would proceed in this and, as I said, I've already got two answers. I'd be interested in your approach to this and then I'd like some time back.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Okay, I'll try and be brief. I have two responses to that. First of all, understand there are two sources of dollars that we're accessing at the federal level. One is Medicaid dollars. The other is an appropriation by the House and the Senate for family centered, service coordinated services. Those dollars are an appropriation that have been...that's the \$1.2 million. I can tell you right now that both the House and the Senate have passed increased reauthorization for this particular project. So that funding source at the moment looks very strong. The other thing I would say to you is that historically in terms of Medicaid dollars we do not cut children's programs and, in fact, over the past 10 years have expanded our activities with children year after year after year. And furthermore, I would share with you that my perspective of the Clinton administration when I hear them talking about national vaccination, full funding of Head Start, as well as approval of the reauthorization of this particular act, that on their agenda is a high priority for services for children and family. Now does that mean I can guarantee that the Medicaid dollars that have been available, that are now available to us would go away and we would be faced with taking that on? I can't guarantee that anymore than I can guarantee the existing "SPED" dollars that are being given to us from the federal level are going to be cut off. I am arguing that this money now, even if we only had it for two to three years, if you'll listen to the demonstration project people, you'll hear that they are building relationships that are going to last regardless of whether or not we have the money. It is a risk, I don't deny that. I can't make any promises.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you. I think you stated that very well