

Legislature wants to be the one to stand here and not provide at least the same level of funding as last year, in the face of what I think we're facing on this. So, despite the admonitions from the Appropriations Committee, in my view, services to the developmentally disabled, I've seen polling done that indicates that's the highest priority, most supported function in terms of state expenditures that there is. People have a concern for the developmentally disabled. They are in that condition through no fault of their own. Everybody can understand what it means to a family to have that occur. Everyone can feel for the families and for those individuals with the suffering and trials that they have to go through. And I think a helping hand from society to help those people is something that most Nebraskans overwhelmingly support. So I would ask again, we're not adding new money, we're trying to continue the base line budget for these services to the developmentally disabled.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Robinson, you're next.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, Senator Wesely, I have a question for you. I think we're talking about what, 170,000 you're talking about? What would that money do?

SENATOR WESELY: What would the money do? It would...

SENATOR ROBINSON: Be specific, if you can.

SENATOR WESELY: Well, 187,000 is now what would be left in the cut for the aid back to the regions that we have in the state that serve the community based programs for people with developmental disabilities. So these are services that would include assistance in work settings, assistance with the family to come out and do respite care, different types of assistance, maybe a group home situation for these people. Those are the type of services that are now funded in community based programs.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Okay. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Robinson. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. Speaker and members, I'm not really going to...speak in opposition to the amendment, but I will be voting no. But I think it's important that the entire Legislature