

the needs of Tiny Tim and not kick a crutch out, as some would intend to do under the provisions of this bill. But I know that nobody here really wants to be Scrooge, and so let me again argue the points that I think have merit and are in need of your support for this amendment. First off, we're not asking for new money in addition to the budget appropriated last year. We're just asking that we have at least the same amount of money given to this aid to our developmental disabilities programs. Other areas that were cut are restored through this budget, through this bill, through the previous bill. And the Department of Public Institutions, we're not going to see cuts to BSDC, the Beatrice State Home, we're not seeing cuts to the regional centers that we have the state, we're not going to see cuts under this bill to mental health services and aid there. The one area, the exception to all of that is to services to the developmentally disabled. If you want to be consistent, you want to vote for this amendment. If you want to be inconsistent, then you want to stand with the Appropriations Committee, because this is the one area that we're cutting back, and it makes no sense. This is the area where we have hundreds of people waiting, on waiting lists to get services. We have people waiting for years that are in need of assistance and clearly qualify and have a high need, and yet can't get help in the community as a result of the cuts that we have. This is an area where in Lancaster County, our long-standing program that has been part of our county for many, many years, is now looking at disengaging from the county, separating off, because we're facing, in our county alone, just to maintain the current level of services, a \$600,000 deficit. And what are we asking for? We're asking for 187,000, that we got last year, that we'll lose unless we get this amendment. So we're not gaining new money, we're just asking not to lose anymore money. Can we lose any more ground when we're already so short in funding on these programs and with so many people demanding and desiring and deserving this assistance. So with that, again, I'd ask for a call of the house, please, Mr. Speaker, and ask for your support for this amendment. Ask for a call of the house.

SPEAKER BAACK: A call of the house has been requested. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 11 ayes, 0 nays to go under call.

SPEAKER BAACK: The house is under call. All members, please report to the Chamber and record your presence. The house is