

that in the base. It would stay in the base if the Appropriations Committee sees fit to do so, and I certainly hope they will, but they're not under any obligation to do so.

SENATOR AVERY: Okay, was...as the bill originally came out, as I understand it was 2, and then it increased by a million for 7, 8 years.

SENATOR BYARS: More than that, it went from 2, and I think in the year 2000 was 7 or 8 million, I believe, finally.

SENATOR AVERY: Okay. Why...I guess when you originally brought that out would you agree that that was a step plan, that you thought you could work into that?

SENATOR BYARS: Yes.

SENATOR AVERY: Okay, well, thank you. With that, I, you know, I'm torn a little bit. I was originally ready to support 1136 and give them at least for one year. Now that that had been increased to 8, and now the compromise to bring it back down to 4, I still don't think, because I look at what we have to deal with next year and the dollars that we need to carry over this year, I think it's important. I think we need to do something for these people, but we also must do it within our means. So I would...right now I'm going to support the Moore amendment and would ask that others do so, too. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: I lied. I said I wasn't going to speak again, but I have to. Senator Hillman, you made a wonderful case for why you should vote for funding this. And I think we need to revisit, you know you keep talking about every year we keep being requested for more and more money for mental retardation, but you never fund it. The requests are there, but you don't fund it. What happens is that over the last 7 years you've increased approximately \$7 million total in state aid from the General Fund to mental retardation. At the same time the needs have grown to \$56 million for that same General Fund money. Now, would you respond to a question, please?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator.

SENATOR BYARS: Senator Hillman, what would you do with these