

individuals who are not receiving services when the family members finally pass away, can no longer take care of them, and we're running into this situation every day? How would you deal with these individuals?

SENATOR HILLMAN: Senator Byars, if I had the answer to the problems of developmental disabilities I sure...I would get a lot of response from a lot of...I don't have the problems. What I'm saying is I think that the system, this currently, has so many problems that I'm going to say that I think the system is literally almost broke, broken down. By broke I don't necessarily mean money, I'm saying I don't think it is really working. I don't see the cohesiveness that I think needs to be there between regions and state. I don't see the cooperation that I think needs to be done. I think we have lots of problems in the total program, and that putting out, and I'm going to say a few million dollars, isn't going to address the underlying problems that we have in delivering these services. There is no doubt in my mind the need is there. There is nothing worse than getting up on the floor of this Legislature and talking about people who obviously need help, who cannot help themselves and say, but I don't think we've got all the money there is to help them with all their needs. I don't think it's there.

SENATOR BYARS: And I appreciate that. Thank you very much for answering my question. What we have here, and I'm not sure you're aware, I think, and unfortunately you were in the hospital at the time I think that we debated this on General File, or maybe you'd just come out. An amendment that was offered and was adopted to this bill was the DED study commission that was...that took the form of a bill that had been introduced by Senator Rasmussen to do exactly what you're saying, to study the system. But I can guarantee you, when they get done you aren't going to like the answer any better than you do now. Now is the answer to this, my good colleagues, to run from the problem and say because we have a budget problem, and this problem will go away if we throw a million dollars at it? I mean the dollars we've put into it over the last seven years have barely kept pace with inflation. And in the meantime our waiting list for people who are not receiving services is approaching a crisis level. It's come from some, I can't remember the figure, I'm thinking 6, but it might have been 800 to 1,150 in the first of December, to now it's over 1,200 people. Yes, it's expensive. Yes, we all wish that problem would go away, but it will not. And I again say we, as a