

legislative body, can't afford it. Do we have to prioritize? Yes, we do, absolutely. And I'm saying I think \$4 million is a very minimum way of prioritizing what we, as legislators, what we, as policymakers, are doing in this state.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Byars. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Madam President, members of the body, I just wanted to rise to support Senator Byars and in opposition of Senator Moore's amendment. I think Senator Hall hit it squarely on the head when he said that this is what Nebraskans are about, to take care of these people who are so uncared for and so in need. I think we talked about that a week ago when we were talking about the welfare bill and the family cap, and I suggested the same thing, that this is not what Nebraskans are about, to take support away from those people who are so in need. I guess that I also thought that there was some sort of an agreement that was struck, and Senator Byars is part of it, that what he had originally had amended into his bill, the 8 million, was going to be reduced to 4, and that was kind of part of the...part of the agreement that he struck. Maybe I missed out on something someplace, I don't recall him saying he was backing off that agreement. But I guess I'd sure like to see us support the original \$4 million. I'd like to see us go for the 28 million that it takes to take care of our unmet needs. Those people are helpless and they really...this is one place that I think we really need to spend our resources. I support the Byars bill and I do not support Senator Moore's amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Madam President, members in the Chamber, I rise to support Senator Moore and I rise to support Senator Byars, and I rise to support Senator Hall. I said to myself this is a priority of mine. So I've watched what I've voted for. But we haven't done it as a body, folks. We have not done it as a body. And this is a priority of mine, but we've spent too much money. We got a bill with five lawyers and a 3 percent pay raise. Maybe we need one or two, I don't know. But I question whether we need to spend all that money. Senator Moore is right. You know what, we ought to have a rule in the Legislature that any new member that comes to this body spends two years on the Appropriations Committee. I'm sure I'd be a lot different person if I hadn't spent two years on that