

are looking at programs that are woefully underfunded right now. If that means we've got to redirect our resources, fine. I'm willing, ready and able to do that. You know that if we need to raise the revenue to do that I'll be right there. I'll file the amendment. It's not a problem because I believe so strongly that these people need our help. And that's what government's first role is, is to help people. We do...we help people in a number of ways. We help people because we build roads. We help people because we provide funding for teachers, for schools. We help people because we provide social programs. But we have to help these kinds of people first and foremost. That's where our primary role and responsibility is, to those who cannot help themselves. Those are the individuals, the citizens of this state, that rely on us more than any other. They need our help. We're giving them probably the least amount of help possible, but it's also, at the same time, as much as we can afford right now with the Byars amendment. I would urge your support of Senator Byars' amendment. It's a reduction from the A bill to \$4 million. It cuts it in half.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I'm never very excited about spending any money. And I think I've shared the story with you before about offering an amendment, or offering a motion, I forget the mechanism that I used 'ast year, several years ago when the body of the Legislature was giving the developmentally disabled a lot of lip service but not much assistance. I offered an amendment that would take a sum of money out of all the budgets. And I know I've shared that story with you before. And everyone said, no, no, no, that couldn't be done. I don't know how many times I agree with Senator Hall, but it's not altogether that often, but in this particular case I do agree with him that I believe that one of the primary roles, perhaps not the most primary, but certainly one of the primary roles is to provide assistance to those people who can't help themselves. I think at this point in time I am going to support the Byars amendment, but I think it probably would have been a better amendment if the sum would have been what was originally in the bill, \$2 million. It would have been sustainable. The only thing worse than not appropriating enough money is appropriating too much and then having to take it away after programs are established. Over the years I've had the opportunity, as many of you have, to work with your regions, and that's the worst thing that happens is