

effort, and the veto is one result of that. It is very unfortunate. Our children right now are suffering terribly from the throes of mental illness. We do not have adequate services. We send those that have very severe illnesses out of the state where it costs more. They are separated from their families and it makes no sense, but to change that we must take some initial steps to build an infrastructure of mental health services in our state, and this was our first step to do it, and from 2 million it was cut to 1, and now down to 400,000. It is sad to be in this situation. We are woefully underfunding the mental health side, and what we need to be doing is taking that 6, 7, 8 million that we send out of the state, bring it home and serving our kids here at home. But the problem is you first have to get the services in place and then you get the money rolled back in, and you can...that's how it works. You start off with some seed money, prime the pump, and before you know it, you don't need to add more money, you just need to redirect more money, but that first effort is not going to take place this year it looks like because of this veto. So the road map is in trouble, unfortunately. The Medicaid rehab option that Senator Robak had a piece of legislation on, we had it offered up in the welfare bill. It would have taken existing dollars, matched them with federal dollars, leveraged well over a million additional federal dollars to helping serve the mental health needs of our citizens, and, again, conflict within state agencies led to that not being adopted by us this session. We have the Medicaid, the managed care system that Senator Ashford and others worked on, the biggest hang-up on that is the question of how we deal with mental health. That is the one area that has really blocked progress on the managed care. So it is clear to me the mental health issue and how we serve the mentally ill and how we provide those services is a critical problem that needs to be addressed. A study resolution before the Health Committee will be one of the priority studies. We will look at this issue, but clearly the Legislature can't do it alone. We have to have the executive branch, we have to have the agencies starting to work together. And if anything out of this discussion, that message has to be sent that we are going to go off one more year, but I don't see how beyond 1995 we can wait any longer; 1995 has got to be the year that some of these mental health issues get resolved and some of these things that are being put off for another year get put off no longer. So I am hoping this will be the last time we will have a discussion like this where we don't make progress on mental health issues. And I will give, I guess, the rest of my time to Senator Robak,