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that goes into all of the offices throughout the State of Nebraska with terminals and printers, and over the last year the Department of Public Welfare has been putting more of its services on computer. It currently has 110 pieces of equipment which consists of terminals and printers and the Governor recommended in his budget an additional \$488,000 so the Department could continue its work by acquiring an additional 338 pieces of equipment for placement in local offices. Now what the system does is very simple. It takes all of the various kinds of applications for help, i.e., an application for aid to dependent children, an application for medical assistance, an application for food stamps, an application for social services, an application for aid to the aged, blind and disabled, and it puts those applications into one common data base so that the information on the individual and the family is a part of one common record as opposed to being part of five records. In addition a computerized information support system permits one county welfare office to quickly plug into the central computer to get a display on the activities of a given family who might be coming in from a different county. This particular type of an operation has tended to inhibit duplicate payments. It has tended to reduce caseworker error, tended to prevent misrepresentation by clients and potential clients. It has had a very positive effect on the ability of a welfare department to grant emergency food stamps and to grant emergency assistance. It is now in place in a couple of parts of our state. Now the federal government, the federal government is prepared to pick up 2.5 million dollars of the overall cost but that has been conditioned upon our having state dollars involved and the amount was \$488,000. Now if we don't put the system into place this year, if we don't finish out that which we have been in the process of doing, we literally stand in jeopardy of losing the two and a half million dollars that the federal government has assured us would be there. Now the reason I happen to be carrying this amendment is because I have had a number of conversations in the last several weeks with members of the Governor's Office who are supportive of the ultimate responsibility by the State of Nebraska for the county welfare function and these members are saying that one of the things that will really enhance the capabilities of the State of Nebraska to do a statewide delivery system in welfare is to ensure that we have in place a computer information support system. They think this is an important measure to put into place now. We have been doing it already but we continue with the process and they think very simply that this is one area of the budget that we truly ought not to cut out, that we really ought to have in the budget, even though it has got a

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