

\$500,000 of federal money now available through the Department of Institutions. This would go a long way. Next year the only money that these community based programs could receive would be that appropriated by the Legislature. It would not be an increase in proportion to the income developed for the State of Nebraska. It seems to me that they did a very good job and I think if we don't continue to fund the community programs adequately, give them some help, we will in effect tripping over dollars saving pennies. If some of these people must go to state institutions, you all know the cost will be much higher. Given the amendments we suggest, there will still be an increase in the State Institutions' budget of about 2.1 percent. It seems to me a reasonable request and I could go into a lot more detail. I don't think it is necessary. We could get into a philosophical discussion that really isn't necessary. This just makes good common sense, dollar and otherwise, and hopefully you can seriously consider this amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, I like Dan Lynch. I like John DeCamp. They are good people. It seems lately Ernie is okay, too, and I hate to stand up and oppose Dan again on an amendment I know he cares a lot about but I have got to do it. Dan knows a lot about community based programs. He started a lot of them over there in Douglas County and they are a model across the state and across the nation. I am opposed to the amendment for a number of reasons. Senator Warner will go through the different figures. First off I would like to indicate I have passed out a letter from Ron Jensen. Ron's letter goes through what he sees is the alternative if \$600,000 is cut from the budget. You know, budgets are very complicated, and as we look at them, one set of figures looks something to you maybe different than it looks to me, and I think Senator Lynch and some of these people proposing this amendment may be seeing something different in the budget figures than are really the case, although it is hard to understand and I don't purport to know that. I hope Senator Warner will go into it a little bit but I know for sure that Senator Sieck's information is completely off base. Senator Sieck is talking about...I don't know where he got this information. Whoever put it out should apologize to Senator Sieck. It shows a \$2.6 million savings if the two things that are suggested by Ron Jensen are done, the closing the CCU at the Regional Center