

I move its adoption.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Senator Sieck, please.

SENATOR SIECK: Yes, Mr. President Vard, members of the body, we are just asking for the same amount that the technical colleges asked, to keep it as it was. When we came to the Appropriations Committee, we asked for a zero budget and we are going to keep it that way. You remember a year ago we overrode the Governor's veto and got 289,000. I would like to share with you some of the things that was accomplished by this. In this region, Region 16, which is one-sixth of the money that was gathered, we thought we could serve 27 additional people. Actually we served 61 additional people who was waiting on the waiting list. Now if we take this money away, this 210,000, some of those will not be served. They will have to drop back out. And you must also remember that there is a lot of these individuals that are becoming of age, have come out through the school system and now need to get into the program at this time, and there is no way under the sun that they can get into the program at this time if we don't continue the funding. But they have done, as far as I can see, a beautiful job of holding down the cost and trying to serve more people and we do have a lot of volunteers out there. I want to share also with you that we have a private institution in York County which is working in connection with the regions and using private funds. They were able, plus some state funds, they were able to serve 26 people waiting on the waiting list. To me that is excellent cooperation and I think that we should continue that program. So I urge you to adopt this amendment to delete or delete the 1 percent cut. Thank you.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Thank you, Senator Sieck. Now the next speaker is Senator Higgins. Her light is on, it is being recognized. Senator Higgins please.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for those kind introductory remarks. Did I understand Senator Sieck to say he was urging the reduction? Senator Sieck, would you yield to a question please.

SENATOR SIECK: Yes, Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: I was talking to Senator Warner while you were talking, and at the time, did I understand you to say