

we have to provide those services and the cost is very reasonable. Our number of staff, I think, in proportion is less than most of the other regions. But also, let me point this out to you, probably the most important reason of all, we've been talking about how much the state should spend, how much federal funds any region should be eligible for, and a key factor in all of this is what kind of meaningful local effort is attached to this kind of a thing. Wouldn't you all agree with me that the more the county contributes, the more incentive is offered to provide service because those counties participating spend more of their own money, that there should be some incentive for that, maybe even some reward? I don't have a copy of it, but I'll just read this to you. Region 1 in the state provides 4.4 percent match. Region 2 provides 3.2 percent. Region 3 provides 5.9 percent, those counties provide how much of the funds. Region 4 provides 6.9 percent of the funds. Region 5 provides 11.7 percent of the funds, and Washington, Douglas, Sarpy, Cass and Dodge County commissioners are kicking in 14.3 percent of the funds. This kind of an effort would reward those counties that don't have the courage to come up with the money locally to support these kind of programs, and that is wrong. You shouldn't support this amendment at all. I could go into much more detail, if you want me to, but I don't think it is really necessary. That is the basis for it, none of us knew anything about this. If Senator Conway or anybody involved in this amendment would have talked to some of us who were involved with these programs, we might have been able to enlighten them, but they didn't. So this is, in fact an end run. It may seem like a joke to some others, but it is damn serious to us when we've got waiting lists that amount to hundreds and we can't get the money from the state to do it or do anything about it. They are having to suffer along with everybody else with the cutbacks in funds. Don't reward those areas with more money who are doing less to help themselves than most of the rest. I would hope that you would oppose this amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Maybe I shouldn't say this, but I'm really not saying it in a derogative way...

SPEAKER NICHOL: Excuse me again. (Gavel.) Front row, please listen to the lady.