

Because it...I at least am speaking for myself personally, because I think it was important that we move from what had been the practice as long as I have been on the committee of essentially arriving at an appropriation by negotiation, for lack of a better term, to one that both reflected the kinds of program that a region had that both reflected equitably...equity between regions, that this approach was desirable but in order to accomplish it and not hold any...and not at the expense of any existing region, much like the issue we dealt with on Medicaid with the counties, it required additional funds, and this level of funding accomplished all of them. The second portion is on the advocacy groups. As you know, the Governor cut those in half. The recommendation is to restore them as that reflected the majority decision of the body at the time it was done, both on Select File as well as part of it on General File. So I move their adoption.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Sieck.

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President and members of the body, I want to urge your support for overriding the Governor's veto of community mental retardation funding. As you will recall, it was my motion which you supported on a vote of 25 to 4 to add \$1,270,000 to the current funding of mental retardation services. Now, I would like to take just a minute to remind you of a couple of things. First, please remember that if the community mental retardation programs were fully funded, as outlined in last year's appropriations bill, it would require an additional \$5,900,000. None of these programs are adequately funded to do the job they need to do for the people already being served. We don't have the \$5 million, unfortunately. Instead, I recommend one step, a very significant step toward that goal, your action to add \$1,270,000 and it will help a lot. Second, I want you to remember that money spent for community mental retardation services is money spent in every one of our legislative districts. That is money going into the economy of your district to pay for supplies and pay for staff and it is also another kind of an economic development. Now, I just thought of this from a speaker that spoke at a convention that was held over the weekend. (Gavel.) It was a missionary from Madagascar and he said, you people in America, all you think of is who brings economics into the state. You don't think of people. You don't think of the needs of your people. You always think of those who are making money and you have got to help them make more. Here we are taking a little bit, just a very small fraction from our people to help people and yet it is