

the nation. In this particular area at the present time it is a white spot. We have done a tremendous amount of work in this particular area and I am real appreciative of it and I don't want to lose it. So that is why I encourage you to bring this bill back and attach this amendment and restore the cuts or restore the funding which you have taken away. Now there is no more conservatism than this. We are actually saving money. Many of these programs that we cut we are saving money and I realize that but I think this one really is real important. We do save money and I would like to see it continue because if we do not take care of these people, in the long term it is going to cost us a lot, lot more and we all had experience in the past because of this. So I encourage you to bring this back and attach this amendment. I understand this is the last one so you won't have any difficulty of having others coming back because there is a motion now to suspend the rules and vote on the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President and members, I feel obliged to stand up and talk in favor of this effort to return to Select File. You know, we wouldn't have to go through all this system and wouldn't have to go through this process if Senator DeCamp hadn't made the motion yesterday to preclude a lot of us who had some concerns like Senator Sieck in talking about these things on Select File. So it is necessary for us to go through this kind of an exercise which is really unfortunate. So I will have to mention a couple of things on why I think it should be returned to Select File for this amendment. The same standards aren't being applied to local programs as it affects retarded, as it applies to state institutions. All you have to do is look at the total people served in local programs, total people served in the state institutions and the total of that \$93 million budget that is used for institutions. You know, if the same set of standards were applied per patient based on diagnosis and staff ratios were applied to that, you would lay off 300 people from state institutions, save a few million dollars, but it doesn't apply to local programs. We are not being fair at all. What we are doing is protecting institutions. In some cases that is obviously important and fair and necessary. In this case it isn't. Regardless of what region you are from, it is unfortunate that a better understanding on behalf of the Legislature