

worthier than other programs that were cut? There has to be something to distinguish this program from others since the committee dealt with this program differently than it dealt with others. So did the committee deem this program worthier or more meritorious than other programs that were cut?

SENATOR SCOFIELD: I don't think you will find any committee member on there that is very enthusiastic about any cut we made. And even though this is in my end of the state, I am not going to stand up here and tell you that my end of the state is more important than Omaha.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But...

SENATOR SCOFIELD: But we have to take a statewide approach to this. This, to me, seems like just good sound planning for the future, that it is not the kind of thing that we should stop, that we should continue doing it. And I think as an aside to this, Senator Chambers, I think this places a burden and a responsibility on the Regents to address some of the kinds of issues that this kind of action takes, because we have spoken as a committee that we think it's important to provide access statewide for services, period, and that access isn't there and this. I think what the message here is, the committee is saying, we think that the entire state deserves access to nursing services. In that respect, because those services aren't currently available, yes, perhaps it is more important in that respect.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, it is worthier then? All right. Members of the Legislature, had this proposal gone through with all of the other amendments...by the way, what I am suggesting is that we reject this proposition and leave the cut in the budget bill as it was. And let there be a motion made on the floor and justify it on the floor and let the Legislature adopt it on the floor knowingly and with their attention focused on it that they are rejecting totally a cut proposed by the Governor for a program that was felt or deemed by the Legislature to be worthier. Now, that kind of argument, Senator Scofield, is not lost on me. I do believe there are programs worthier than others and I do believe it is not appropriate to deal with all programs as though they sit on the same level, because they don't. But since there are equally worthy meritorious programs and some, which if they receive the cuts projected by the committee, and I'm thinking of the advocacy agencies as an example, which will be virtually abolished for groups of people