

great distances to get assistance. And I've always heard from the rural areas of the state how that is a bad thing and we need to recognize it, we can't impose on those people, because of the long distances it is a much more difficult situation. The very people who are now going to be asked to travel long distances to get help are the same ones who don't have a car, can't afford a car, can't get public transportation, and it is harder even for them to do this than it would be in a more urban setting. So, I ask you, those of you in the rural areas and I ask those in urban areas as well to consider the plight of these individuals and whether or not this is good or bad policy. The last thing on that NCCY cut, on the group homes, these are adolescents that are troubled individuals, young people that have had difficult times, don't have a family to go to, need supervision, need structured setting. And we are about to cut back on the programs they have available and perhaps place them, in many cases, in foster homes. I'm not sure that is the best way to go for those kids. I'm thinking in terms of those individuals as young adolescents in need of help. I see the other cuts in the other areas as individuals in the rural areas of Nebraska hard hit by the ag crisis. That is the vision I have. Maybe you don't have the same, but I ask you to consider the possibility of providing fair and reasonable services to these individuals, and I would ask for your support for this amendment.

SENATOR CARSTEN: The question is...Senator Lynch, your light came on when Senator Wesely was closing. Did you have something on Senator Wesely's....

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, I'll give him whatever time I have.

SENATOR CARSTEN: All right, you have about two and a half minutes left on Senator Wesely's time, Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and Senator Wesely. I would just like to raise a question about this issue. If, in fact, these social workers were taken out of the counties, logistically, how do you handle the problem within those counties where they are now contracting with the Department of Social Services for the medically indigent and for social services care? I'm not quite sure, administratively, how that will work out since that is by contract with the counties. I would plant that in your minds because it is, in fact, a terrible and serious problem that is not answered in this budget resolution.