

Senator Chambers. You know, it ranges from assisting to finding interpreters in sign language, where that is needed. They do not provide it but they help find the people that supply them. They provide assistance with...on a temporary basis, kind of a revolving fund for this equipment that the hard of hearing can use over telephones, so that it can be written in. They have a series of creative counseling with people who are hard of hearing or hearing impaired so that they can suggest ways and things to make their life easier.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, I have the picture. Thank you, Senator Warner. I was just...

SENATOR WARNER: I might say, it is all the kind of things that my big brother suffers who is deaf, so I understand the problem.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you very much. Members of the Legislature, I think those are very good and worthwhile services that the state is providing to those who have need of them. Such services being given by the state may take that hard jagged edge off this entity called the state and humanize it to some extent. Maybe when the state comes in contact with people at this point who are situated in these circumstances, it appears to be a humane reflection of the best in the human spirit which is what a state ought to do every time it has the opportunity, and that should not be diminished at all. I believe that it is an unconscionable thing for the state to do this. If you can take these services to any extent from the hearing impaired, would the next step be to take a cane from a blind person? It is very important that people with these problems be directed to those who can help them, in the same way that if we go to a strange town, signs help us know where we are and where we are going. I don't know why, for the life of me, that we, as a Legislature, have been reduced to voting to take away essential services from people who need them so deeply. I am glad that my vote will be to keep giving people these services but I regret that I have to be in a situation where such a thing is even open for discussion and debate as to whether it is appropriate for the Legislature to do it. And the debate is on whether or not it is going to be done. There have been people who could not hear or talk who have come to the barbershop to get their hair cut. I don't know how to sign, but over a period of time, we have learned how to communicate enough for him to let me know how he wants his hair cut and whether he is satisfied with what I have done. Those of us who hear and speak and walk and think very seldom give thought to those who don't do these things. If