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LB 577

SENATOR FISCHER: But then those...as I'm reading this, you're...districts that just have a one-year program, their funding is cut by 33 percent. So if the criteria is not established until later, who decides which three-year program is going to qualify?

SENATOR RAIKES: I wasn't clear in my explanation of the 33 percent. Because when you first establish a program, say, you do an application for a...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Fischer.

SENATOR FISCHER: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Fischer. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion. Senator Stuhr, on AM1720.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I just want to stand in support of this amendment and also the committee amendment. I am in support of the early childhood concept. I do believe that early childhood, from all the research does show, that it is very important for young children, particularly those that are at high risk. I will just ask a few questions, and then I will give the rest of my time to Senator Fischer so that she can continue addressing those questions to Senator Raikes. But I do have a question I'd like to address to Senator Raikes, please.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes, would you...?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes.

SENATOR STUHR: Could you expand just a little bit on what the total cost for this early childhood program will be for this biennium? Not just the additional cost that we're passing here (inaudible).

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. In the upcoming biennium...let me take you back to review our discussion on LB 425, the mainline budget bill.