

are found through that medical examination. At least with respect to children whose parents are so poor that they are eligible for welfare benefits, there certainly is money available in the State of Nebraska for the kind of physical examination and immunizations that are called for in this bill.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Maresh, did you wish to speak to Senator Chambers...Senator Chambers, do you wish to close on your amendment? Senator Koch, your light came on. Did you want to speak to the Chambers amendment?

SENATOR KOCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I mentioned earlier in my opening remarks, we in this state expend a considerable amount of financial resources in terms of the youth of this state and here we are about to say they may. We still have something in the bill if we put it under "may", but we certainly are not getting down to the intent of this legislation and I would submit to you that I am not one of those Senators who wishes to place something on the books where the intent has been so watered down that it really is not effective. I mentioned to you a moment ago that the American Legion of the State of Nebraska Children and Youth Committee by editorial, and I have the clipping here, support this piece of legislation, supported it last year when it was on the floor but got lost because of the end of the session, and if we are willing to put out eighteen to twenty million dollars alone just in the educating capacity of handicapped children, then I would think that we would be willing to pass legislation which is preventive in nature and I would hope that this body would keep the word "shall", not "may", because after all, even my good friend, Senator Lamb, I am certain would want his children to have examinations at certain periods of time and he as a responsible individual probably saw fit to do so. There are certain school boards that do this presently. As I indicated earlier in my remarks, they say they "shall" even though the law has been "may" for years but the point is the evidence is throughout this nation where there are certain states who use "may" have serious outbreaks of disease which close the school. The best example I can give you is last year in California. In one section of California at one time 225,000 children were not in school for a period of time simply because there was not an ongoing program in immunization for measles. As a result, they shut down that whole system for a period of several weeks. I submit to you that that is a waste of money because that system costs money regardless of whether there are children there or not. So when we talk about