

April 19, 1979

LB 226

can find prior to age three. Many would be left out in the cold. Now I can recall my own circumstances. There was no services provided and I did use private facilities but I was wealthy enough that I could do this and it has been helpful to me. LB 226 would directly contradict the very important principle of earliest possible intervention. LB 226 would mean that 44 children under the age three currently served by the the pilot project, mostly through ESUs, would not receive services. Now I have talked to one of the parents of one of these children. Her daughter just had her second birthday. In two years her daughter had had corrective major surgery eight times. The child has participated in early childhood program in Wayne. Mother and daughter go into the center once a week for direct development with the child and for guidance and how to follow at home. This program has a tremendous difference. Yet if LB 226 passes, the ESU providing the services will not have any mandate below age three. It seems completely ridiculous to me for this child who is a living example of early childhood intervention, to have to sit out one year until she reaches age three. Now I am sure in this circumstance that this mother is not going to let this thing set by the wayside. She is going to try to find some other services and these services aren't available but there are a lot of people across the state...

SENATOR NICHOL PRESIDING

SENATOR NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR SIECK: ...that could not do this. Now I am going to leave many more of the details of LB 889 and 226 to Senator Cope who is a lot more familiar with LB 889 than I am since I was not here the past year and some of the financial responsibilities in this area. With this, I hope you support the bill to kill 226. Thank you.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Reutzel, you will be next but before you do I would like to recognize some guests we have in the South balcony. They are guests of Senator Kennedy and we have seventy sixth, seventh and eighth grade students in Meridian 60 Rural School and the teacher is Mrs. Carol Cross. Would you stand and be recognized, please? Thank you. You are listening to debate on a retarded children's program. I'm sure you know that by now. Senator Reutzel, would you like to speak next?

SENATOR REUTZEL: Mr. President, members of the body, I