

rise to support the kill motion on 226. We're not talking about salaries today. We're not talking about capital construction but what we are talking about is handicapped children. We are talking about disadvantaged children, disadvantaged every day of their life that they spend on this earth and that is something that we can't relate to. We are not afflicted but every day that they spend on this earth they can't do things that we take for granted. When we walk down a hall or when we climb some steps, when we look down a hallway, when we hear what others are saying, these are things that perhaps they will never be able to do and they need every real advantage that their parents can provide for them and every advantage that this state can provide for them. Why? Simply because they need every advantage to stay reasonably close to the development of what we would call normal children and I didn't want to do this but maybe we ought to reduce this bill down to dollars and cents to better enable Senator Lamb to look at this bill. Reducing this to dollars and cents I don't know how Senator Lamb could introduce the bill. On one hand we don't want to spend a few dollars at an early developmental stage but if we don't, Senator Lamb, these children are not trained to their potential. They can't function to the best of their abilities and they are not competitive in that job market and they end up on the welfare rolls, Senator Lamb, and that is going to cost us many many more times the money we are talking about in this bill. Just because these children are handicapped, does not make them any less a human being and I think this state should provide every opportunity for their development. They have every right to expect and to enjoy the kind of life that the rest of us enjoy and for these reasons I urge this body, I plead with this body to support Senator Sieck's kill motion and kill LB 226.

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, a year ago about this time this body was deliberating on the fate of LB 899. We made a commitment to the people of this state. We lifted their hopes, particularly the parents who have children who have unique learning problems. One year later we are seriously considering about rescinding that promise. It always reminds me of a verse of Robert Frost when he stated we have promises to keep and miles to go before we sleep. We made that promise