

I think will much more than pay for itself in the very, very near future. As a matter of fact, in talking to John Knight who I worked with very closely in developing this bill, this bill, LB 389, will pay for itself almost immediately. We have looked at other states. We have looked at Minnesota primarily where John is from and we have tried to model our bill after other states in the programs they have established. We have tried to use the best from other states and come up with the best program and fit it in with Nebraska's needs and the need in Nebraska is this. We have a special program here, we have a special program there but people are falling through the cracks and they are not being helped and they can't fit in quite one place or the other place and what they are doing is they are in a desperate situation. The bill originated two years ago when I had a meeting in my district when about thirty or forty families stopped by and they came to this home and they told me of their plight and told me how they desperately wanted to keep their child at home but they fell through the cracks and they didn't have the assistance they needed. I talked to John Knight. John Knight found it is a fact that the programs that we had were so specialized, they sometimes missed the most needy cases and the most obvious best uses of our funds and so he and I sat down together and introduced a bill last year that we did not have time to deal with and then redrafted and reintroduced the bill this year. I think you could say quite frankly, the Welfare Department sees a very important need for this legislation and has supported the legislation. We have worked with Don Leuenberger in the Budget Office to try and keep the cost down, to try and make it cost effective. We are trying to come up with something, as I said before, that for every dollar we put in we are going to be saving the state money in the long run and that is exactly what this bill will do. So, the origin of the bill is a one that I think makes a lot of sense for Nebraska. We have looked at other states. We have tried to develop the bill as a model bill, a pilot program to see how best we can meet this need. I think you are going to find a lot of support for this legislation across the State of Nebraska and any time I have talked to a group whether they have a disabled child or a handicapped family member, I talked to them about the concept of helping families take care of their own children and helping handicapped people get a job, why this bill is overwhelmingly supported. I think that you will find that support statewide and that the need is there and I urge your support for the legislation.

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

SEPAKER MARVEL: Senator Schmit.