

This is not dictating curriculum, but it is very close to it. It is telling local schools that certain curriculum is worth more to us on the state level, and as I indicated, obviously the schools are going to take that as a message and fill up certain programs more than others. If a local school district, my local school district or anybody else's local school district wants to have an expensive vocational educational program, which I think is probably necessary in most places, I think that should be a local decision and paid for with local dollars. On the other hand, if they choose not to, again I think that is a local decision. But I think we should put the dollars for education from the state level up front for the number of pupils that are there, obviously some for equalization because there are some school districts that really need it, some an incentive....I have got no argument with that, but I think the majority of dollars as we did last year should be on a straight foundation basis and not based on certain curriculum. So I certainly do support Senator Lamb in this amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise in opposition to Senator Lamb's amendment. By attempting to strike Section 5 of the bill, I think Senator Lamb may be going far beyond even his own intentions. You know we worked these provisions out very carefully in the Education Committee and Section 5 includes adjustments and changes in the state aid formula not only in relation to vocational education, which we have been talking about so far, but also in relation to limited English Proficiency programs, and finally, in relation to gifted programs which was made part of Section 5 when we adopted the committee amendments. Now for a couple of years I have been supporting various approaches in attempting to improve the number and quality of programs for gifted children around the state, and to that end I introduced LB 423 this year identical to a bill I introduced last year. And what we decided to do was to change the concept of LB 423 and put it into LB 318 as an amendment which scales way down the scope of the gifted proposal that myself and the Association for the Nebraska Gifted have been advocating before this Legislature for a long time. The amendment to LB 318 the Legislature has adopted to change the funding for gifted programs from the equalization part of the formula to the foundation part of the formula is not going to require a whole lot of new appropriations, considerably less than LB 423 would have, but it does, nonetheless, strengthen gifted programs. It's an important and modest step towards