

May 29, 1981

LB 561

I am familiar with and I have told that story also but many of you have not heard it. A number of years ago a little girl was in a foster home in my district. She was called mentally retarded and her foster parents came to me and said she needed eye glasses and a hearing aid. It took a long while but we finally got the eye glasses and the hearing aid for the little girl. And she went to the school out here near Senator Warner, Villa Marie School, and it was discovered that the little girl wasn't retarded, she was only handicapped. She couldn't see and couldn't hear. Today that little girl has grown. She is married and has a family because somewhere, someone took enough interest in her to discover that she wasn't really retarded. I wonder how many children have grown to adulthood and never had the opportunity to develop and pursue a life like the rest of us because at some point in time someone said they were retarded without giving them the full opportunity to develop their abilities. I don't want to have it on my conscience that I denied to a single individual that opportunity to develop to the fullest extent of their abilities. There will be some mistakes and there is going to be some problems, and I have had my problems and I will continue to have my problems with some aspects of the mental retardation program, and where I can help, where I can correct those, I will make those corrections. And I did not vote to override the first time, but I am telling you now I am asking you to override this time. I am asking that the....

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT:that we suspend the rules and that we vote to override the Governor's veto on mental retardation. Mr. President, that is all I have to say.

PRESIDENT: All right, the question is the suspension of the rules for the purpose of the attempt to line item veto, so this first vote is on the suspension of the rules. It requires 30 votes. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. It is on LB 561 in case you forgot what bill it was. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Again, we are....all right, record the vote.

CLERK: 30 ayes, 10 nays to suspend the rules, Mr. President, and consider an override motion.

PRESIDENT: The motion carries. The rules are suspended. We are now ready for the motion to have LB 561 become law