

March 4, 1982

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Title 9. Title 9 is already in effect. To my knowledge there have been no tremendous increased costs that have been forced upon the school districts by Title 9 this far. So therefore, there is no reason to believe this continuation of Title 9 in the form of this bill would have the effect of creating tremendous additional costs. Therefore, I don't think that it is necessary for an amendment which says that the state should pick up those costs if created. Secondly, I would remind you that the school district themselves always have alternatives, that is, it is not always necessary to increase total costs. It might be that they could make the decision to adjust costs, that is, to switch costs within programs, maybe lower funding for boys programs and a little more funding for girls programs so that there is no overall cost. That is a decision that I think we should leave entirely to the local school district, and if we promise them state funding, I think that what you will see is that we will have the effect of encouraging spending which is exactly what we don't want to do now at the local school district level. It will encourage spending because they will think the state funds will be there to pay for it. Secondly, let me point out to you that to my knowledge this kind of a program, this kind of a proposition where the state is going to pick up the increased cost is unprecedented in the state. We have not heretofore with regard to any school program that I know of where the local school district has controlled it proceeded to offer state funds to pay for it. And I would suggest to you that the benefits under this kind of a bill may be very unequal to different school districts, that is, some may choose to use a lot of state funds and others may choose to use very little and the state would have no means of controlling how much of the state funds are used by different schools. You should be reminded also, I don't think I really need to remind you, that the schools do have a funding mechanism. There is no...they have a property tax source. They can increase property taxes if necessary. At least as far as the state appropriation is concerned, it makes no difference. They do have a seven percent lid and I would have no objection to exempting any increased cost from the lid, if Senator Peterson chooses to do that. But finally and perhaps most importantly, the amendment is not structured in any sort of workable manner, that is, the school districts would have absolutely no way of knowing who files the claim, with what state agency the claim is filed, how that state agency processes the claim to the Appropriations Committee. There is no process for the submission of claims and, more importantly, there is no process for the review of claims. Senator Nichol pointed out to you the possibility of the submission of exaggerated or even false claims and