

March 16, 1982

LB 896

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask Senator Koch a question or two.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Yes, sir.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Koch, what is the difference between a course offered for someone who is not handicapped and one that is handicapped? Could you give me the name of a course or two that might be put in the curriculum that wouldn't be put in for somebody that wasn't handicapped?

SENATOR KOCH: Well, first of all, we are talking about handicapping, Senator Nichol, if you will read your amendment, it talks about certain disabilities. There would be mental disabilities which restricts one or more major life activities, seeing, speaking, working, and learning. It also includes mentally retarded, hearing impaired, deaf, speech impaired, visually handicapped and emotionally disturbed, orthopedically impaired. Those are the kinds of handicaps that we are identifying and what we are saying is that where there is a possible skill that can be provided to these people the community colleges would have the supervision and direction of that program.

SENATOR NICHOL: And the board of the community technical college has absolute authority as to whether they have these courses or not?

SENATOR KOCH: That is correct. The Board of Governors, as is now seen in the other amendment says "as needed" and the Board of Governors will make that determination.

SENATOR NICHOL: As needed or as they choose to think are needed. Is it mandatory?

SENATOR KOCH: No, it is not mandatory because first of all you have got to prove that there is sufficient need, that there is a job skill out there that can be taught to these people so that they can be employed.

SENATOR NICHOL: And the cost for these various programs falls a hundred percent on the technical college?

SENATOR KOCH: The cost would be on a tuition basis plus whatever state aid we give the community college in terms of weighting programs that are difficult possibly to develop.