

could be kept at home and some of them could be mainstreamed and some of the larger schools do have in their special ed programs. I, too, had the privilege of serving a few years back and working in depth on the special ed program, along with Senator Baack, and so I do see this as a red flag in the bill that we do have to think of the children and, as I say, 90 percent of the cases I am sure this would be probably better for them. But, again, I support Senator Baack's language on page 2 that who cannot receive an appropriate special education program in their resident school district, and that is my reason for hesitating to support the bill. I probably will or at least this time but I do see that red flag there that these...the districts simply will wash their hands of these students and they will, without a doubt, be sent there and not in their own residence. So I want to just bring it to your attention that there is that possibility and I do support Senator Baack's amendment then.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President and members, thank you. I, too, want to...I will indicate my support for Baack's amendment. I will be frankly...frank with you that I was a little apprehensive about it upon first reading it because, obviously, the key word in this is "appropriate" but my intent only in this bill, much as Senator Hall has stated, that I want to do what is best for the student based on their evaluation process, which is set up in statute as to what the process should be, their individual evaluation program...or performance or report and whatever that is indicated on there is what I think should be done for a student and this embodies these terms...is embodied in this word of "appropriate". And so I am comfortable on that basis, understanding the fact that whatever is in the best interest of the student that's where they should go. I will comment a little more on that because I think many students across the state may have many times perhaps not been placed appropriately or taken care of appropriately because of consideration of cost either from the local school district, distance or whatever reason and this should be...in this bill should contribute positively to an appropriate evaluation and an appropriate reaction, appropriate placement, appropriate program, appropriate educational program for a student by doing this. And I...I accept Senator Baack's amendment on that basis with the idea that if this does not work out in a couple years, I will be back to perhaps pass judgment on it again. But I accept that this is the proper wording at this time and will