

This particular bill, if you read the veto message, it is clear that our objective from the onset was to have a cooperative effort between the three branches of government, executive branch, legislative branch, and the judicial branch, and it is clear from the Governor's veto message that she simply doesn't see eye to eye with the way the Legislature has been proceeding on this issue, and I think it would be unwise, frankly, to pass a bill that she apparently feels doesn't work for her because I don't think it would be administered in a way that any of us, that we would want it to happen. I would wish her Director of Children and Families well, and I hope she can carry off what I believe is a practically insurmountable task without additional resources and additional help, but I hope she can be successful. But in the meantime, I think it is appropriate that LB 662 be raised also in terms of the appreciation that ought to go to the staff here in this Legislature that worked on this bill for a long time, to the child advocates who worked on this bill, and to the communities. As I said, there are big challenges facing the Governor and her director to carry through on their intentions of how they intend to address children and family needs. There is a tremendous need for prevention services out in the communities and, unfortunately, this bill isn't going to be there to help communities do that. But I would hope that that effort and that thrust will go ahead, and with that, I would withdraw LB 662.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. It is withdrawn. Senator Scofield, would you like to address LB 1170.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Yes, Mr. President, in keeping with the philosophy that we have tried to pursue all year, I think this is one of those issues that you can characterize as a legitimate deficit. You will recall that we found out, shortly after this session convened this year, that we had some problems in terms of tuition monies for National Guard members, and we had, frankly, a number of students who simply were going to come up short and still will come up short if this veto isn't overridden. The amount is 269,000 this year and 121,000 the following year. Some of the institutions, I think some of the students have chosen to go ahead and stay in school in hopes that this is forthcoming, and I think that this is an obligation that we have to those students given the way this bill has moved through the process. I would ask for your support.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Any discussion? Senator Scofield,