

demonstrate the billing system as well as the referral and service coordination system. Section 4 again makes it clear that we're talking about services, not across the entire state for all children under the age of three, but for services within the demonstration sites and that instead of the lead agency being responsible, that it would be the Nebraska Interagency Coordinating Council that would be supervising this activity. Section 5 just reiterates that instead of the lead agency, it's the Interagency Coordinating Council. Section 6 identifies that instead of implementing a statewide program that the Interagency Coordinating Council will be looking at continuing their efforts to plan for a statewide plan and to provide oversight to the two demonstration projects. Section 7 doesn't have any changes. Section 3 deletes conversation about additional services that we're not going to attempt to address through the demonstration projects. Nine and ten, no changes. Section 11 talks about going from a statewide billing system to implementing a billing system in just the demonstration sites. Again, Section 12 deletes language regarding to a statewide project and 13 talks about interagency, local interagency planning teams in the demonstration sites, not in all of Nebraska. So basically what we're talking about doing here through the amendment's is changing this from a statewide comprehensive project to a demonstration project. And with the, I would urge your adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Rasmussen. Senator Withem, did you wish to discuss the amendment?

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, real briefly, Mr. Speaker, and to refresh people's memories. Right before lunch we defeated the committee amendments and we said at that time that the committee's preference or, at least, I guess, I haven't discussed this with the full committee, I should not speak on their behalf, but as Chair of the committee my preference would be to adopt the Rasmussen amendments. They do perform the function that Senator Rasmussen indicated to limit the application of this program from a full-blown state commitment to probably a next logical step in our planning process of trying some of these ideas of interagency cooperation with families with handicapped students and also pilot projects of using this Medicaid billing system to see if there are some programs that we are currently offering and are currently using Nebraska taxpayer dollars to fund in the area providing special education for preschool students if we can get federal reimbursement for those and free up some dollars