

**SPEAKER BAACK:** One minute.

**SENATOR RASMUSSEN:** Yes.

**SENATOR MOORE:** Thank you very much, Senator Rasmussen.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Thank you, Senator Moore. Any further discussion on the advancement of LB 701? Seeing none, Senator Rasmussen, would you like to close please?

**SENATOR RASMUSSEN:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to close by saying why should we do this? We should do the demonstration projects to get some information about whether or not the Medicaid billing system is a viable way to come up with a new way to reallocate the dollars that we're using in this state to do some new kind of programming without using a...entirely funding it through new state dollars. The other thing is that it enables us to begin to look at what kind of impact do we have by using a service coordination or a case management approach to providing services and support programs for families who have children with disabilities. This project not only will give us some ideas about what to do in terms of programs for children under the age of three who have disability in their families, but it really could serve as a model for inner agency coordination. There's been a lot of talk for many years about inner agency coordination and how we can pull it off and one of the things that this project would do would be to define the roles and responsibilities of the agencies and give us an idea of how well and how effective inner agency coordination could do, could be for being more effective with our program as well as efficient with our tax dollars. We should do this because it offers us the opportunity to get more federal dollars and relieve some of the money that we've used at the state level to fund these kind of programs. It gives us the opportunity to look at ways to maximize the effectiveness of the programs we already have in place in the State of Nebraska, to avoid duplication, to define agency roles and most importantly, to support families. What we are attempting to do here is to fix the responsibility for getting to the family what they need. I am convinced that this state is rich with resources and we have many of the things that we need for families already in existence. The difficulty and the problem has been, we are not accessing or putting those resources together in a way that keeps families together and offers them the kind of support and