

be used for other purposes should they arise. They had been, in both cases, the School for the Deaf and Visually Impaired had been approached for other types of programming to utilize that space that was available on the campuses. They did not have the statutory authority to do that. We were continuing to look at the large situation in terms of the scope and the responsibility and the mission of these facilities and didn't focus on that but, at this point, Senator Wehrbein and I talked about it and felt that this is, I guess, just an opportunity to continue to look at what those facilities are all about. Much of the discussion that is centered around their need has been around the cost that has been associated on a per pupil basis in those facilities. What we do here is allow those facilities to contract with other types of programming so that they can reduce those costs if they are possible or able to. And I think that all it does is work toward that end. It is, in no way, an attempt on my part, I think not on Senator Wehrbein's as well, to, as you say, fill the buildings up so that there would be some kind of coalition that would not want to see an end to those facilities. No matter what the ultimate outcome of a bill such as 638, and I think it's intent, although I may not agree with the way it was originally drafted, it's intent is it focused appropriately, in my opinion, those facilities are going to be there. If you were to pass the 638 that included a closure of those two facilities, those facilities are still going to be standing there, they're still going to be state property and they're still going to need to generate some income, I think. All this does is allow the buildings, as they currently are being used, under the auspices of the School for the Deaf and the visually impaired to address those opportunities as they arise, generate some income so that the per pupil cost, if at all possible, can go down and let them basically augment their budget, so to speak, by using facilities that are currently out there that are at present going unused. If you have any other specific questions, Senator Rasmussen, on what this might or might not do, I would try to address any specific question.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hall. I will now recognize senators who wish to speak to the Wehrbein amendment. Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Madam President and members of the body, I rise in support of the committee amendments and also Senator Wehrbein's amendment. In the bill, there is a planning team