

home. They would assure that there are programs presently available for those young people. Also, I could see it as a referral for judges and also a referral for parents, schools and so forth. We would have an annual update of the program to be submitted to the Legislature by June 1st by the Department of Education, and a process for monitoring and reporting the state funds, out-of-state funds spent for students with disabilities would be given to the Legislature every June 1st. What it amounts to would be better use of services, reduction of out-of-state placements and a more prudent management of funds. I would urge you to support LB 638. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Robinson. I will now recognize Senator Moore, followed by Senators Hall, Rasmussen and Lynch. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Madam President and members, I, too, rise to support LB 638. This is one of those bills that I don't know actually...I guess I don't actually know if it will actually accomplish everything that we hope it will. I'm sure it's a step in the right direction. It's one of those things where I've heard over the years, as I'm sure anybody in this body that's been here for a length of time, different stories about what we're spending, so many dollars on sending a child to Texas or wherever, we hear these time and time again. And it's one of those things I don't think we actually have a handle on how much of that is going on. I think LB 638 is a step in the right direction and I'm trying to get a better handle on that and that's why I supported it. It's one of those things that if we're not spending dollars as judiciously as we should on some of these things, we, obviously, need to strive towards doing a better job of it. I think 638 does that. It's one of those things, as we move forward in state government as a whole, we have to make sure that we're getting maximum efficiency out of every dollar, you know, getting the proper bang for our buck. I don't know, on some of these things we have a variety of different situations where children are placed in different types of institutions and settings and there is a broad cross section there. There seems to be little to no coordination from any one...from any one point in state government. I think 638 would start bringing that into focus. Obviously, it's my hope that not only will it bring that portion into focus but will give us a better direction on as to how we're spending our dollars, as to how we can spend our dollars even better. So, with that, I strongly support LB 638.