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LB 830

agencies and to deal with 20 and 25 different people in order to try and piecemeal an extremely complicated jigsaw puzzle in order to get the kinds of programs and services their children should be having. I urge you to support 830. It has many important and needed elements and, as Senator Byars has said, it will be a beginning step for continuing to improve the programs for our children and their families. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Rasmussen. The next speaker is Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, Senator Wesely, I have a couple of questions. The hearing process kicks in then at 21. Is that what you were talking about that was added to the bill for those that would reach 21 as far as getting services are concerned?

SENATOR WESELY: Right. At the age of 21, the federal requirement for special education ends or also upon graduation and, at that point, our service system has these people in most cases waiting maybe sometimes for years for services. This bill, in '93, would end that and these people would move directly into the service system.

SENATOR ROBINSON: What...what kind of entitlements would they...would those people receive when they get into the...?

SENATOR WESELY: Well, that would depend on the individual on their particular needs. It may mean family support so those individuals could continue at home. It may be supported employment, may be supported living if they move out of the home. It would depend, I guess, on the individual.

SENATOR ROBINSON: How is it now, just first come, first serve, or...?

SENATOR WESELY: You know, I would like to...the waiting...I would like to know the answer to that, Senator Robinson. It's...the wait...we have 650 people on waiting lists and how they come up and get services, how they don't, can depend not only from region to region, but within the region it's not consistent. It is...there is not a consistent answer to your question.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Do you have a...what percentage of young