

unfair. I was going to use the word "immoral", that's probably a little bit too strong a word, Senator Baack says, Senator Bernard-Stevens says. It borders on being immoral to continue to tell these local school districts, we have a great idea, we want you to implement it and then not have the money for them when they're done with it. So that's the reason I feel strongly that this one should be overridden. With that, I would yield the remainder of the opening time to Senator Rasmussen.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Yes. Thank you, Senator Withem. Madam President and members of the body, I, too, want to reiterate what Senator Withem is saying. What happened was last year legislation was passed. It was LB 567 and there were to be two parts of this. The first year was to give money to establish a training center in early childhood education and a parent program and that was funded last year. It was also stated in that legislation that then this year there would be four model projects supported through state funds. And, just as Senator Withem has described, then the message was last year for the school districts to get their act together and to come and submit proposals for the model projects and that would be supported through the legislation that was passed last year. By design, there is to be one model project from each of the congressional districts and there are to be model projects that represent both urban and rural areas as well as large and small communities. They are to demonstrate collaboration between private providers of early childhood services in the community as well as Head Starts and early intervention for handicap programs and they were to have a very strong parent involvement component. What's happened then for the last year is two things. One is the state has provided a good deal of assistance through the Department of Education to those communities who typically aren't able to just whip out grants. They don't have the resources to do so but still have the same pressing need and the same interest and enthusiasm for doing this project. And so what happened is there were a good many projects from a lot of different communities throughout the state that were submitted. Eleven outstanding projects were submitted as a result of this. A lot of time and energy and community cooperation went into putting those grants together. Four of them have tentatively been selected to be funded, as we stated and the intent of this project was supposed to be through the legislation passed last year. I think it's important for you to realize we are not