

increases dramatically in the out years, people aren't paying quite as much attention to it, and then eventually we have problems funding it when the time comes. But, nevertheless, this one, the \$320,000 returns this down to...\$80,000 is left in that program. That is the amount it is in the present fiscal year. It would be maintained at that level so it wouldn't be a cut, so to speak, but wouldn't be the promised increase of what this is. Two of these issues combined amount to about \$920,000 and, you know, where you can all add that up, if you add that to the \$4 million, you're getting close to \$5 million. And so, with that, I would urge the body to sustain the Governor's veto.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: I just wanted to mention a couple of other things. Thank you, Madam President. Members of the body, \$320,000 is a lot of money for us to be talking about now when things are really tight. I just wanted to share with you what some of the other states surrounding us have invested in early childhood education because they have recognized that it is the area where we ought to be putting our money. Iowa has put about \$11 million in, Missouri about \$15 million. Both Colorado and South Dakota have put multimillion dollar projects in place. They're doing it not because they have a strong lobby for it, although that's probably true too, but because they recognize that for one...most conservative figures, for 1 in every 4 dollars that we invest in the early years...I said that wrong. For every \$1 we spend in the early years, we save \$4 later. And there are other figures that show even as high as 7 to \$10 saved. I could argue probably even more strongly and more passionately about this is the right to do, that all our children deserve quality early beginnings and that our children are not born with directions about how to raise them and that parents, although they all want to do the best by them, may not know how to do that and deserve the best kind of support in order to accomplish that. And I just hope that you will give serious consideration to following up on the promise that we made in LB 567, as well as recognizing that this is where we ought to be putting our money.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Rasmussen. Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Madam Chairman and members, I think it's a good time now, early on when we talk about the vetoes to come to grips with how the system works. You know, I've shown some