

Level I, Level II, whatever the, you know, the different special ed, we're going to give the school district, you know, X number of dollars for that like they're doing in the hospitals, I guess. I've had a recent experience with hospitalization and they'll say, we'll give you so much money for doing this process. So these are my questions, Senator McKenzie, if you can kind of respond.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Senator Hartnett, I will do the best I can. If I get the questions out of sync, let me know.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Okay.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: The first question was about what might be driving the cost and is it, in fact, the number of students identified?

SENATOR HARTNETT: Yes.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: A recent report from the Special Education Accountability Commission, in fact, dated April 13th, has looked at that very issue and they say that growth in students identified was the single most significant factor in driving up special education spending; that increases in numbers of students accounted for 30 to 50 percent of the total increase. And I would tell you the category that has grown the most is the category called Other Health Impairment. There are 13 categories that we can identify children under with a handicapping condition. So, clearly, that is one issue.

SENATOR HARTNETT: What would fit under that?

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Umm...

SENATOR HARTNETT: That other...

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Other handicaps.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Miscellaneous, others, catchall, yeah.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Children who have...let me see if I can quickly find that. Limited...children who have limited strength, vitality, alertness due to chronic or acute health problems including heart conditions, tuberculosis, rheumatic fever, asthma, sickle cell anemia, hemophilia, epilepsy, lead