

understanding your comments about mainstreaming costing a great deal more. If you put them in a regular classroom where they have regular teachers, it doesn't take extra special ed teachers in order to maintain those classes, does it? I mean, I'm trying to figure out...I know many years ago, many, many of these kids were mainstreamed, they came...they didn't get a very good education because they just sort of led them through the system and then turned them out at the end and then, as a result, we had an awful lot of kids who graduated from school who really didn't have an education because they didn't have anybody to attend to their special needs. I'm talking about going back that same direction. Is there a possibility these kids could be put back in regular classrooms without any special effort to give them a quality education and let them move on through the system? That's my concern.

SENATOR McKENZIE: Senator Vrtiska, in light of the number of successful lawsuits, not in Nebraska but nationally, where a child was placed back in a classroom without appropriate, least restrictive environment, support and services, that's not going to happen. If a child is placed back in the classroom for inclusion and often it's the parents' request, they are suppor...they are...have full-time staff member with them all the time. In other words, a...

SENATOR VRTISKA: Now you see what you...

SENATOR McKENZIE: ...special ed person goes with them.

SENATOR VRTISKA: You see what you've done, you've trapped yourself, Senator McKenzie, because you said basically you can't do anything, that's federally mandated, that's court mandated. And that brings up my question that I brought up a while ago. How are you going to ingest those mandates that are handed down from the courts and are handed down from the federal government? You know, you talk about flexibility, there is some flexibility but some of these are mandated requirements that you just talked about and I guess my concern is if that, in fact, continues to be, how are you going to cap? And if you do cap, I guess I'm going back to my original...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...version and that is we're going to have local dollars that are going to have to be fed into the system