

solid. If we can't do those things, we are, in fact, long term jeopardizing those programs. Now it's interesting to me that with respect to children in the welfare system who are no more or less innocent than children with disabilities, no more or less innocent, with respect to those children, we're going through very thoroughly 29 waivers and a whole discussion of the welfare program. Because the kids are cheating? Well, obviously not. We're doing it because the welfare program is in question, because the public wants to know if we're spending the money wisely and they have a right to know that and we should do that for them. With respect to children with disabilities, I think we need to go through the same process. We need to be very candid. We need to be very objective and we need to say what needs to be done, but we need to say that after saying, yes, we have thoroughly reviewed the situation, we've looked at everything, we need to do this, the way we're doing it, and maybe we need to do more. But you're not going to sell more until you've convinced them that what you're doing is the right thing.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator McKenzie.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Senator Withem and members of the body, I wanted to address a couple of comments I heard in the debate and I will be brief so that other people can continue to ask their questions. First of all, I want to make clear that my intention, as the introducer of this legislation, is not to take the civil rights away from these children but to guarantee that the money that the state provides gets to these children, and I will tell you that over the past 20 years this has become a well solidified bureaucracy of rules and regulations. And I challenge you, if you haven't had a chance to read the 85 pages of rules and regulations that Nebraska has, to read through them. We have added so many things in the last 25 years that we have actually handcuffed the very people who deliver services to children. We have to have X number of people at X number of meeting and have X number of tests to verify a child with a language disorder that clearly the classroom teacher could see day one. We have to retest a child who's diagnosed with Down's syndrome six times to make decisions about what should happen for them in schools. We tell schools exactly what to do for every child. In fact, those teachers who write IEPs have a computer program and they just plug in the things for each child when they do their IEPs. So I would disagree with Senator Crosby's statements that we are taking local control. What we