

that you just mentioned, learning disabilities and dyslexia, and I'm afraid that they may get lost in the shuffle, and those often times are the students that we can really impact on. And we don't have time now for you to respond, but maybe you would as you continue on this afternoon and allay some of my fears in that regard.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Maurstad, on the McKenzie amendment.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Madam President. If Senator Bernard-Stevens could respond to a question.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Yes, Senator.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Senator, part of, it seems to me a basic, underlying premise that is a part of this legislation is the assumption that we'll be able to maintain funding for special education at the same level of growth as general education. And I was...I would like you to respond to that assumption and whether or not it is a reasonable one, and whether it is one that we should develop this legislation upon.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I appreciate that. And, Senator Maurstad, to respond I'm going to need a couple of minutes. But I went ahead and punched my light so if we run out of time I can yield you more...I can yield you then my time so you can finish, if that's appropriate. Senator Maurstad is correct and it's one of the concerns I've had all along, all the way through it, is what is the future of block grants and can we maintain, for example, the funding that we have? To answer the question in the proper way I think the best is to focus it on the development of how we are. And the people that are most closely associated with the special education actually came to us and said, us being the Education Committee and those of us involved in education, and said, which all of us are but those of us that have been looking at this particular bill. And their recommendation was that we believe this may be a concept that can work. And, Senator Maurstad, what their view was was that they believed that there were things that they could do that could become more efficient, that would be less cost...that would be less dollars that they would have to spend and still meet all the things that they wanted to, but they wanted to have the flexibility to do so. And so they came forward and said, we'd like to try the block grant concept, we believe it will