

be dealing with this issue, that being the state board, the special ed commission, the commission of school finance that Senator Withem is a member of, and certainly Education Committee to all get together and simply saying how do we coordinate this to make sure we do what we say we're going to do. And also I want to mention to all senators that we are not closed to any idea, we are willing to sit down with all and any...and certainly Senator Chambers, or Senator Maurstad, or anyone that has questions, we will sit down and talk to the best of our ability and find ways that we can accommodate those and still accomplish the goals that we're trying to do. I appreciate debate taking place, it is a major step. I would urge advancement of this particular amendment and would assume that even on Select File there would be a tremendous amount of discussion and debate because I'm not kidding when I say this is a very, very bold step for the Legislature to take, I think it's necessary. And I appreciate the work that Senator Bohlke and Senator McKenzie have done. And, Senator McKenzie, thank you for that time on your closing.

SENATOR CROSBY: You have about...a little over two minutes.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. I want to I guess reiterate and use the same closing I did in committee when we introduced the bill. You know this is certainly kind of a great old 1973 Chevy that we put together a long time ago. Nebraska was one of the leaders nationally in the beginning and the programming for special education. And it's a long, proud history we should have. But we have not changed, modified or adapted this 1973 Chevy and it's 1995, and it is time to unfortunately look for something that is not requiring as much fuel for a fewer number of children than we did in 1973 or in '77 or in '85. And I would draw your attention briefly to the last chart in one of the handouts that shows the rate of growth of special education as a percentage of total state aid. It's remarkable to look at the years where 1059 funds became available to the school districts, where we gave money and...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: ...equalized the way in which we provided money to those districts. And you will notice that there is a drop for a year and then special education costs begin to skyrocket. It's a good argument to say whenever we do things to