

not call old and Senator Jensen winces. He must be a Ford man. But I would argue that it's a lot harder to rebuild a car piece by piece than it is to go out and buy a new one and that's really what we are about here. This is the beginning of a process. The specifics are not in the bill, the specifics are not in the amendment. Certainly many of the concerns and the directives are in the amendment, are in the bill based on the testimony and the conversations we've had with the advocacy groups, with school boards, with superintendents, with special education directors, and let me add general education teachers. There are good and bad stories on both sides of this issue. Senator Bernard-Stevens is correct in saying that a reimbursement system does encourage the identification of children and we know that children who wear a label, especially a label of special education, are often children who are treated differently, provided fewer opportunities, teachers have lower expectations. We've seen inclusion and cooperative learning efforts in the last five years in order to get those children more in the mainstream than when we had them separate in a class. Those are some of the arguments that come to play when we talk about how we deliver services and what we do. On the other hand, we know that if we open this up for more flexibility at the local level, if we go to a block grant, we're going to have other new problems. We're going to be concerned about whether we do identify children who need to be served. We're going to be concerned about accountability. What do we do with the money that is given to the school? Does it get to the children? Is it being spent on their programs and services or is it being spent for something else? On the other hand, I think it allows us to do some more creative things and to utilize the resources of regular education more which is what we should have done all along. Again, briefly, we will expect to have for you on Select File an amendment addressing unique needs, we will be addressing some of the language that dealt with how the block grant system should be delivered, who should be doing which part of the study process, how we can guarantee that in fact something will happen between now and the beginning of the block grant approach. I would ask for your support of LB 742 on advancement to Select and would yield the remainder of my time to Senator Bernard-Stevens if he would wish. Senator Bromm, would you wish for any time? Thank you.

SENATOR WESELY: Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Senator McKenzie.