

I would like to ask for a call of the House.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: There's been a request for a call of the house. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Please record.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays to go under call, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The House is under call. Will Senators please return to their seats. Will all unauthorized personnel please leave the floor. The House is under call. Senators, please check in. Senator Bohlke, you may proceed.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Madam President. I think we've had a very good discussion. I think that or I hope that many of us have a better understanding of the issue. Certainly Senator Bromm and Senator McKenzie have assisted in pointing out what this will really do, but more importantly what it will not do. The facts are that we know that special education has been growing at a rate that is out of control. We know that we have to do something about it. We know that those three areas that we talk about, entitlement, Medicaid, welfare reform and special education, we've started to address the other two areas. We have nothing...we have done nothing to address the costs of special education. We have talked about it for years. Since the time I was on the board of education, we knew at that time, in the years 1980 through 1988, we constantly discussed the cost of special education. I used to always ask what is the cost per student of the special education. We could not even figure it. Part of the difficulty here is unraveling all the layers of what is now done within this whole area of funding and then that comes to the point of what people are saying finally, after years and years and being able to determine how we get at what are really driving up the costs, the one way to finally do it is to say, stop. We need a flat year in order to get schools to look at that. I think it's very necessary. I think that, obviously, you've heard from...I serve as Chair of the Education Committee. Chair...Vice Chair of the Education Committee supports it. The person who prioritized the bill supports this amendment, the Chair of the Revenue Committee, the Chair of the Appropriations Committee. We're all concerned on what...trying to do what's best for these children, but we also are very concerned about, me, particularly the area of verification and how that has grown and, with that, I'll give the balance of the time to Senator Bromm.