

SENATOR HALL: So there won't...I mean, the potential is not there for the districts to decide that it's cheaper to have, as you called, a hard handicapped placed in a special ed classroom. And I guess, for lack of a like situation, with other students as opposed to mainstreaming that individual and supplying the special needs that they have to allow for that mainstreaming to take place. Does the...the district, under this proposal, would not have the ability to reject the request of the parents as it's currently drafted.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Senator, there is nothing in the bill that changes what is the current practice regarding that.

SENATOR HALL: Do you think that there's a likelihood that there...that districts might relook at those things, depending on how severe the cuts may or may not have been?

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Certainly. I think that they will look at all of their program and all of the different alternatives that they offer to students, depending on the handicapping condition.

SENATOR HALL: But it's...so the possibility is out there that something along these lines could happen down the road?

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Well, it could, however, at the national level, the recommendation is for inclusion.

SENATOR HALL: Right.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: The federal regulations are looking at inclusion rather than separate programs, and it's so much better and we save so much money when we don't pay for transportation to another place.

SENATOR HALL: Correct, he stays in his district.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: So actually, in the long run, while you may pay more for a paraprofessional or for some additional services, you save money when you don't have to do a contract in another district and then pay for transportation.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time. Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator