

kind of feedback they had received. They said none. I said do your schools know about it? Well, they know about the 36 million. I said, do they know about the alternative education mandate? Well, no, they didn't know about it either so they didn't advise their schools. I asked them if they sent a fax out like they did on the special ed situation. No, they didn't. So the schools don't know about it. They're going to read about it in the paper tomorrow, but we don't have a choice. We do not have a choice. We've got to support LB 658. This is the strategy and we have to do it, so I encourage you to support LB 658.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Withem.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yeah, just to correct the record on a couple of questions that I didn't know the answer to. Senator Robinson, I not only didn't know the answer to your question, I guessed wrong. I went the opposite direction. Existing statute says such program shall include an individualized learning program to enable a student to continue academic work for credit towards graduation. The other question, Senator Bromm asked me about the enforcement mechanism; I didn't know for sure what they were going to do. I've since found out that in all probability the department...well, factually, the Department of Education through Rule 10 has school accreditation making procedures. The statutory obligations that school districts have are usually placed within the accreditation process and that would be the enforcement mechanism. It would be one of...if a school district didn't have this, it would be one of the factors considered as school districts are accredited.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator McKenzie.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I reserved my comments until we were actually on the bill and ready to advance regarding the importance of this amendment and the importance of what we're doing but also to make my own statements about my beliefs from experience in education. I've never, never supported the idea of expulsion as an appropriate punishment unless it's the very last resort. I'm not convinced that that is necessarily the best punishment for consequences that children deserve to receive because of bad behavior or other problems in school. The alternative programs in the amendment I think, and let me say alternative services because I will tell you that dedicated teachers and schools that are