

that we're finally merging in special education with the state aid issue, and that's always been kept separate. But if that's what the Legislature wants to do, then let's do it after we've had time to really study the issue. So I'd prefer to wait until next year, deal with it as a separate issue versus this equalization...as part of the equalization aid. And maybe in fact that's what the conclusions will be. But I prefer to have the committee that we authorized to study it do their business. So I'm going to be voting against the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Abboud. Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Yes, Mr. "Chamber"...Mr. Speaker and Chamber members, we have a...I think this bill has caused me to think about some situations I know we're developing by some actions that this body has make (sic) that I would kind of like to lay out a scenario for you to explain what is happening in some areas. We made a decision to, in the areas of mental health, to bring as many kids as we could from out of state home. And there was like \$6 million being spent for mental health services for children from the state of Nebraska where the services weren't available and they were being treated out of state. And we made a policy decision to bring those kids home as soon as we could and to, as quickly as we could, provide services so that we were able to return them home and to the state of Nebraska. The other thing that we did was to look at deinstitutionalizing children with mental health problems, and again to provide those services on a community-based level where they would no longer be staying in an institution, but could return to areas close to their home, if not in their own districts, at least close-by, and receive services. As a result of that, and I think the plan is working and I think it's happening, but you have service areas whereby...and you have good providers who will aggressively set up those programs and will do everything they can to bring those kids back into a certain area by providing therapeutic foster homes, by providing residential care. But as a result of that, the school districts are going to be having more children with special ed problems come into that particular district by virtue of being in a service area, and their special ed costs are going to go up considerably. Now one of my questions of Senator McKenzie, if she would yield, is, do you see this amendment preparing any type of relief for those school districts who will be, I'm going to say, inheriting children from a surrounding area that will be placed in special mental