

Nebraska, not necessarily to the home district. That bringing children home from out of state, which I think was a good state policy, and also looking in that children were placed in an institution for mental health care that perhaps shouldn't be in the institutions, that should be in community-based programs, so we also had the policy to deinstitutionalize these children, is going to, is currently and will increasingly affect school districts that are located in what are, I'm going to say, regional centers and so forth where the services that they need are being provided. Already there are four of those children placed in the Scottsbluff School District. One of them is from the Scottsbluff School District. One of them is from as far away as Grand Island. My point is, is that we are bringing these children home. It was a state policy to do that, but in so doing and looking at the special ed cap, where we are placing those children, in my estimation, we are shifting the cost from a state to a local level and is that what the intent was? If it is, then we need to say that; that we are shifting it, that we expect schools to pick up that in property tax; that we are no longer going to do it. Or was it our intent to bring them home, supposedly take that 6 million dollars that was spent on services outside of the state and applying it at...on a local level? Now, the state, through Options, DSS, through the managed health care, mental health managed care system when it comes to mental health services for children that DSS has contracted with Options and to work with schools also only goes so far. Once they no longer fund the services that these children require under the managed health care system as they see it and they enter the school system, they no longer pick that tab up. That money is no longer provided by the state in Medicaid forms. It does come out of the school budgets. So I guess my point is, Senator Bernard-Stevens, is that when the task force is looking at special ed that they take into consideration some of the policies that were created in just the last couple years, include that in their study, and would ask that you personally would support that, would help get that done and, with that having been said, I would be glad to support the Senator Bernard-Stevens amendment (sic).

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Hillman. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Madam President. I am going to support the reconsideration motion, although I suppose if I was