

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

March 23, 1999 LB 495

school districts should prioritize that with the money they receive and go forward with whatever programs they think are necessary. Part of the reason I'm supporting this bracket motion is because I do not believe that we ought to be about the business of providing separate pots of money for every different kind of educational function that is out there. I believe the purpose that we should be following is to provide an adequate amount of state aid and then allow school districts to take that, again, state aid and other sources of funding, and look at what they ought to be doing or what they ought to be providing to their students and go forward with that. Again, we...this would be outside the state aid formula. It would be a separate pot of money. I have a real problem with doing that because there are lots of needs out there. We can all stand up and say I believe this is something that we should provide extra money to the schools for. We know that music and the arts programs are being cut back in the schools in order to save money and perhaps there are one or even more senators here who say, gee whiz, we should provide a separate stream of funding for arts and music in the schools. Maybe we should, but I don't believe that we can do this if we are going to follow the precedent that we have set, and that is to provide state aid at a level that we think is appropriate and then allow school districts to do the best job that they can. Another reason, of course, that I support the bracket motion is I believe very, very strongly that we ought not to use gambling dollars to fund ongoing operations. We ought not to provide gambling dollars in order to fund something that ought to be a priority of schools. I certainly do not object to or oppose placing a priority or importance by the school districts on vocational education. It's probably a very important thing for schools to be doing. But I do not believe that they ought to be using gambling dollars in order to fund that particular purpose. I would hope that other senators on the floor would think about the precedent that we have set in terms of providing a certain level of state aid and say that this is what we ought to...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR KIEL: ...provide school districts and that we ought not to be setting up other sources of money for school districts to access for those things that they ought to already be doing.