

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

April 7, 1999

LB 548

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay, one final area. The durability of this federal program, we have not taken advantage of it up to now. Is there a chance that this program would, all of a sudden, disappear? And, if so, what would happen at that point?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: This is probably one of those favored programs by the federal government in the first place. I think they...we are all concerned about the disadvantaged students, the Medicaid eligible students, and I doubt that that program would go away. But the thing that I would mention in this respect is that, if...if the funds would go away, this program that we're proposing under LB 548 would go away also because the available funds would not...would not be there. But this is not something that schools, for example, would be doing in anticipation of receiving future money. This is simply reimbursement for what they're already doing. So I think that's our opportunity, is to...

SENATOR BOHLKE: One minute.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: ...is to allow the reimbursement. Thank you.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay, thank you, Senator Pederson.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Jones, on the amendment to the amendment.

SENATOR JONES: Madam President and members of the body, I'd like to ask Senator Pederson a couple more questions, please.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Yes.

SENATOR JONES: Yes, I'm thinking about all my schools out there and I realize that you say that they would apply for this, or is there an organization that could put this together for them and, if there is, wouldn't it be better to have them apply for it than spend the extra money, or can you tell me a little bit on that?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Well, there are...there are organizations, businesses, in fact, the state engaged in this when they engaged