

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

February 23, 2000 LB 1243

four years, or whatever information you have? I'm interested in knowing whether the 5 percent is above or below what the rate of increase has been?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: The rate of increase has been varied, but about 6.7 percent for the last 1998-1999, '99-2000, and estimated for 2000-2001, 6.7 percent.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Six point seven percent.

SENATOR BOHLKE: So we're not...we're not going to the full reimbursement, but recognizing that the cap of 3 percent just hasn't met the growth in the cost since 1995.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yeah. I'm trying to think back to the time when we put this cap on, and I think if I'm remembering right the reason that we did that was because the number of students being placed in special education courses was ballooning beyond what people thought was reasonable and that perhaps the system created an incentive to classify students as special education students of one type or another. If we increase the cap to 5 percent, do you think we will...what is your opinion as to whether we will encourage again the classification of students in special education?

SENATOR BOHLKE: Well, Senator Beutler, if we would have returned to the 10 percent, or the 12 percent, or the...you know, that you referred to, we may see that. My point is by just going from 3 to 5, if you recognize the medical costs and the large number of students, that's not enough to increase the identification, you know, of the number. It's just...the 2 percent really doesn't, I don't think, propel schools into overidentification, because they would simply lose money.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...by doing that.

SENATOR BOHLKE: The 2 percent increase wouldn't match that.

SENATOR BEUTLER: The...we...you and I have discussed at one point in time, I know, the possibility of a provision that would