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the funding from elsewhere. Where it comes from is the regular classroom. It comes from the amount of money that is available for them to put into teacher salaries. It is going to be spent; where is the money going to come from? I think that we have an obligation, if the government is going to mandate these services, that we see that we are not taking that money away from the rest of the population who also have a right to a good education in our state. I think that this is one way that we can provide some relief for the districts. It is certainly not total relief. If you think that this is going to decrease the identification of students, I don't think that this is the avenue that we want to pursue because it's not a good business decision to identify more students if, with every one you identify, you're going to continue to lose 17 percent of their cost. Remember, the state is only funding, they're only being reimbursed up to 83 percent of the cost. So every time I add a student, identify another student, I lose 17 percent. School districts have no incentive to keep adding students to that unnecessarily. So I think this is one way that we can be realistic in the cost that our school districts are incurring. I'm certainly a fiscal conservative. I'm certainly always watching school dollars. But this isn't the way to do it. This is something that they have no choice; it's a mandate put upon them by government. If we want to talk about holding the costs down, what we need to talk about is efficient ways to deliver those services. Perhaps we do have some room to look at the number of years that we provide within the state of Nebraska those services. But certainly the funding and the reimbursement is not the way to look at this issue. So I ask you to support this bill. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Stuhr, you are recognized to be the next speaker.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Madam Chairman and members of the Legislature. I certainly have appreciated the discussion that has taken place this morning and do stand in support of LB 1243. Just a few comments. Thirty years ago there were no mandates for special education services. Schools developed their own programs and services to meet those needs. Over the last 30 years we have seen the increase in special education program