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LB 425, 577

is successful in a community for three years, I believe I have this right, then in the fourth year of its existence the four-year-olds, those eligible to go to kindergarten next year, would become eligible for inclusion in the aid formula. So LB 577 approaches early childhood in those two ways. We're going to have more of these collaborative early childhood grant programs throughout the state, and then once these grant programs mature, so to speak, the four-year-old children in those programs would become eligible for the aid formula. But the second part of that does not occur in the biennium that we're budgeting for, so therefore the lack of a need for an A bill with LB 577.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Okay. So the bill was...the bill was advanced out and, with the committee amendment, LB 577 is...doesn't have the A bill and, yet, we don't have an updated fiscal note on the bill, so that's the difference.

SENATOR RAIKES: Right.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Okay. Thank you, Senator Raikes. Members of the Legislature, I think it's...I think it's absolutely appropriate that the provision on the special ed is before us, and I don't disagree one bit with Senator Raikes' comments about it's a pay you now or pay you later scenario. I need to get some more information, I guess, on the early childhood part of this and as far as the grants and what the demand is for those and whether or not...I guess what the immediate need is versus what we need to be funding, and determine how that plays into this. And so I plan to follow that up with Senator Raikes, but I do appreciate him pointing out the information and clarifying the difference between what's in the amendment before us and what's in LB 577. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Further discussion on the Raikes amendment? Senator Schimek, followed by Senator Brown and Jensen. Senator Schimek. Is she on the...Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise in support of the Raikes amendment. And I do need to