

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

March 29, 2006 LB 1256

childhood program. So it's just to have the flexibility to meet the needs of the kids. In some instances, the programs may be a center-based program, but they may actually look a little bit different, provide a little bit different kinds of services, depending on the needs of the kids. And so it just provides flexibility and it just is about meeting the needs of the kids.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay.

SENATOR BROWN: But I don't think it's...because it's defined by the Department of Education, you're not going to have an abandonment of what our traditional system is. You're just going to have the services directed to the needs of the kids.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Thank you very much.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senators. On with discussion. Senator Louden, followed by Senator Redfield, Beutler first.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Whenever we start in on a new project and start going off of a trust fund that's been set up for some of the uses we have, I (sic) somewhat concerned about it, and for that matter, very worried that this will probably end up taking more money out of it as time goes on. Because whenever there's been something that's...that the more urban areas have noticed in there, that they usually raid one of these trust funds. The state aid formula at the present time has enough wiggle room in it they could fund this project, every year. Part of the problem with the state aid formula, there's no model to decide how much money is to be spent where. It's more or less given out as a blank check. Somewhere along the line that there probably should be a way, as Senator Chambers complained that some of the money doesn't go to the people that need it, and I think he's exactly right. There's no way in our state aid formula that tracks the money that, if there are poverty students there, that that money is tracked to be spent on those poverty students. Once that state aid funding goes to a school district, they can spend it on whatever school they want to, and some of your larger metropolitan schools don't necessarily spend the money that comes out of the...for the poverty students all on the poverty