

work, but it will only work if we have the flexibility to do some of the things that we feel we can do on the evaluations and on some of the other criteria that they mentioned, that Senator McKenzie spoke so well of this morning. So I believe that it would be more accurate to place the concept of the bill as saying we're going to give to the local people that are in control of special education and those entities that are in control the ball for a while and see if they can do what they believe they can. If they can change some of the concepts of how they do things, change the way that we do on Rule 51, which is an absolute foreign language to read, they believe and at this point I believe that they're going to be able to find a better way of spending the dollars that we have so that we can stay within the cap. But I would be the first one to say, David, that you share the same concern I do and my position has always been that if we find that there isn't that flexibility that we thought might be there, if the changes that are proposed cannot fit within the cap then I would not be one of those that would stay within that area. I'd be one to say we need to pull off and go to it and look at a different direction. That's the best that I can do at this point. Obviously it's on your time, Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Well, and I appreciate that response and I think it's important that the body recognize that we're making a rather broad assumption here, and based upon more of a goal that we're targeting than any empirical data that would indicate that we could...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: ...reduce...we could reduce the spending in this area to the same level as general education. So I think it's important that we have laid out and that not only as this discussion goes on, but as we continue to revisit this issue in the future that we keep in mind that the basis for which we're trying to restrict the funding for this program. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator Robinson, on the McKenzie amendment.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Madam President, members of the body, Senator McKenzie, you're doing a great job and I want you to continue. I have a few little questions for you.