

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

March 18, 1998 LB 1228

that is one grade level, that started out as one grade level, I think it's expanded to about the fourth grade now, and it is not available to those of us who want it. There are long waiting lists to get our children into those programs. And mine are already older. Parents on waiting lists to try to get into those core knowledge programs in Millard, and you don't even have those anywhere else in the entire state. We are the only school district that even offers that. So it's not available now. This is something that would ask schools to look at it, make it available to every student in K through 12, should they want to be eligible...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR WITEK: ...for this money.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Madam President, members, I don't intend to speak to this amendment again, and not even use my three times. I do want to clarify when I was talking about the people that I was aware of and that I have heard of...from, from Senator Witek's district. There are three that come to mind. I didn't mean those were the only people in her district that support phonics. I did travel up to the district, to her district, to observe a whole classroom, met a number of parents there who are on the Parent Council, who support phonics. And so I was just trying to indicate that I know that there are people, three people who, in Senator Witek's district, are intensely, I think I used the word, interested in phonics. And intensely means that every week when I go home I have a white envelope that has more information about phonics. And I often read it, I don't always have time to read every single mailing, but it is simply what I was trying to point out, that I had realized that there was a great amount of interest in Senator Witek's district, and I think that's where a great deal of it started, because that's where the Spaulding Academy is located. But apart from that, I think that the points that I have made about certainly this should not be a premise for school districts, I don't think, to qualify, and I didn't hear Senator Witek speak to the disagreement within the phonics support group over whether it should be 70 phonemes or 45 phonemes. And certainly I think,