

to all schools that they will devote a given period of time to this sort of thing?

SENATOR KOCH: Senator Murphy, it deals basically with retardation and other problems that are related to that.

SENATOR MURPHY: I thought it dealt with the proposition of making some kind of an explanation to the children rather than the nonhandicapped children.

SENATOR KOCH: It's to the so-quote normal child, in relationship to developmental and disabilities and how they occur, and what causes, and that type of thing. It's a part of the health program, and it zeros in particularly...

SENATOR MURPHY: But shouldn't this...shouldn't this be an option of the local school board? What are we doing putting into statute this kind of detail to burden a school system that is already rundown with costs, and now we're going to mandate another program to them without funding that certainly is entirely within their own purview as a school board to do.

SENATOR KOCH: Senator Murphy, I know that you have concerns about mandating schools to do certain things and so do I, but I do believe there are certain kinds of things that schools, not intentionally but oftentimes by omission, do not give enough attention to. This state today is spending a considerable amount of money in terms of helping children with unique learning problems, so all Senator Wesely is attempting to do here is to say to the system that when they're teaching their Health Education courses, which most of them have, that there should be a period devoted in instruction to maybe several hours, that's all...several hours on developmental retardation and various kinds of disabilities that we often associate as retarded. That's all he's requesting, and I don't think it's an unreasonable request of an educational system.

SENATOR MURPHY: I do not think it's an unreasonable request, but I do think it is a poorly thought out choice of legislation. If this has to be done by statute, then our school systems are in real trouble and this is far from being adequate. I would oppose this. This is a piece of legislation that is going to clutter the books and that will show up in next year's budget hearing when the Department of Education comes forward and explains all of the problems they're having instituting this program. I am opposed to this kind of legislation.