

Lamb, and that is do we...obviously we define handicap in the statutes today and with that definition in mind, is there any projection at all as to the numbers that we are talking about in terms of providing that kind of climate over the next five years? And I guess, Senator Lamb, a second question is, is this preschool movement for the handicapped child something that the public is really clamoring about today? I guess what I am saying, too, Senator Lamb, I am not so sure sometimes that these kids, sometimes and in many cases wouldn't be better off at home for those formative years rather than put into an environment such as that of which we provide within the public school setting. I am going to support the bill, Senator Lamb, but those were just some reservations or some questions that I had relative to...

SENATOR LAMB: I certainly appreciate your concern, Senator Venditte, and I have similar concerns and in addition I am not sure that the school should really be responsible for this care at these young ages, however, it has been the decision of this Legislature that the schools be charged with that burden and as far as projections as to what is going to happen in the future, I'm sure that those are available. I do not have them at my fingertips right now. I can say that it is very expensive. It is going to continue to be a very expensive program. I did have a bill which I introduced last year which would have removed that responsibility from the schools. I think there are other agencies perhaps that maybe are more logically charged with that duty, however, we are now faced with the proposition that the schools are responsible for this education and so this bill merely takes advantage of some federal money that is available instead of having this 10% raised on the local level by the local property owner.

SENATOR VENDITTE: And certainly, Senator Lamb, I would certainly have to echo your reservations in terms of the cost to the taxpayers over the next five, ten and fifteen years when mandating these kinds of programs but sometimes I think it is difficult for us to get a hands on feeling of what this is going to cost, becomes a very sensitive and certainly a very emotional issue, and, Senator Barrett, I noticed you did not vote. You abstained from voting on this particular measure and, Senator Barrett, was there any particular reason why you chose from abstaining in this particular... (inaudible)

PRESIDENT: Senator Barrett, do you want to answer that question?

SENATOR BARRETT: Repeat the question, Senator.