

to your last part of your question was, no, it adds no greater dimension to cost. Autism is again more of a... probably of a medical term as we try to define certain kinds of behaviours of children, and there was a bill introduced. I think Senator Kelly might have been the introducer where they wanted to establish parents of children that have been defined in medical terms primarily as autistic, they wanted their own division in the Department of Education a very separate creature, apart, separate from all other kinds of definitions as they relate to unique learning problems. So the committee felt that since we were trying to deal with the term "behaviourally impaired" that we would place into this statute, and the term "autistic", which again gets back to behavioural types of characteristics and right now some of our schools are trying to treat autism particularly I think where you have more sophisticated programs, and we felt that at least we could place this in our statute and we were trying to find other kinds of handicapping without going to the problem of creating a special division.

SENATOR JOHNSON: I take it then, Senator Koch, that if we take autism and put it under the rubric of behaviourally impaired that an autistic child would be just...would be treated as any other child that needed Special Education and it would not be separately treated as Senator Kelly desired in his particular bill. Would that be correct?

SENATOR KOCH: We would make certain that the terminology is placed here for recognition purposes, and the programs would have to be developed under the same program, was emotionally disturbed, which is now behaviourally impaired, and still not label the child in I think, you know, a very severe way, and give notice of the fact and to the parents that indeed we are going to try to serve those kinds of children if we can identify exactly the problems that, you know, that occur within that.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, it was my pleasure to bring to the Education Committee the request of the Autistic Society or the Society for the Parents of Autistic Children, which is a very special problem in the educational field that is new, is behavioural in nature, is emotional disturbances in medical terms. The prescription, the treatment for autism is education. Those people that have an understanding in this field do not want autism to be medically treated because medical treatment