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LB 769

does no good for the autistic person, but education and training just works miracles for these people and this is the reason that they wanted to be in the Department of Education and the reason they wanted to have an advisory committee of parents to work with the department and to set up a program for autism. The committee's wisdom is that at this time the people that want services in autism and the Department of Education will be much better served by using the vehicle of LB 769 and go a little slower in consultation with parents and the handling of autistic children, rather than the bureaucracy building of an advisory committee and a commission and a department and all of that there stuff. I wholeheartedly support LB 769 as it is amended and I hope you will too.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of Senator Kelly and then maybe Senator Koch, the same question. I would like a definition of what autism is. Exactly what are we talking about, a specific definition. If Senator Kelly would answer that question, I would appreciate it.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. Speaker, I will answer that in plumber terms, and I will provide for you the definition that I get from the people that really understand. Autism is an emotional disturbance in the fields of communication. An autistic child is totally inside themselves and are unable to reach out of their mind or their personality or their physical body to communicate with the world that is around it. Furthermore it has no ability to absorb within itself and respond to the world in which it lives.

SENATOR DWORAK: And then these kind of children with this severe profound type of emotional disturbance, we are going to ask the schools, the schools that are so pressed now for resources to handle not only the current definition of handicapped youngsters and other youngsters at this time to get involved in these kind of programs and it is my understanding they require almost a one on one twenty-four hour type relationship. We are going to require this of the school system?

SENATOR KELLY: Negative, negative, negative. The services are being performed for these people right now, only it is misperformed.

SENATOR DWORAK: By the school system.

SENATOR KELLY: By the school system and by the systems that