

children that are in the special education program. So it was brought to our attention that we do have in our state a program for rural transportation public systems which is primarily those systems that get federal assistance for transporting the senior citizens of our state to do their business and to take them to adjoining towns where they have to get medical services and so forth. The procurement of these vehicles has been made a responsibility of the Department of Roads. They, working with the Department of Administrative Services, are able to make bulk purchases of these vehicles, standardized vehicles. They, too, do work with vehicles that have...some of their vehicles have these wheelchair lifts which is special equipment. So the proposal of our subcommittee to the committee was that a study be made of this procedure and that possibly in being adopted in the special education program that we could realize a cost savings. These vehicles would, I'm sure, be serviced by local dealers. But the dealers would not have to go through all the extra work of planning the special equipment if they were able to purchase them through a central point, through the Department of Administrative Services. So with that I would urge the adoption of this resolution that this study can be made.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Baack of the 47th District.

SENATOR BAACK: I would also like to urge you to vote in favor of this resolution. This resolution came out of the task force that I chaired on special education. We were just looking at different ways in which we might tighten up the process of special education so we might get a little bit of control over the cost. Many times when we have these special vehicles for special ed students sometimes a school district will have a vehicle and only need it for a year or two, and then they don't need this vehicle anymore because the student moves out or something. So then we need some kind of a system that we can set up so that these vehicles can maybe be purchased by someone else or some kind of a facilitating person to set up so we can utilize these vehicles to the best of their use. So I would just urge you to vote for this resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Smith, please.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to rise to support this resolution also. I've had seven and a