

folk are going to find a lot of difficulties as well. And I will tell you exactly what I told the committee and exactly what I have been telling these advocates, when that shoe begins to pinch tight enough on all those many people who are in the middle, they are going to say, wait a minute, why should we be spending all these dollars, why should we see this piece of the pie getting so much larger for this smaller number of folks, and you are going to feel the political pressure to eliminate some of those services, to actually do cutting, to actually change the definitions so people can't get in, and God help us when that happens. I am as committed to continue to serve these young people as anybody could be and I don't want to see that commitment go away, but what I am telling you is that it will. It will, if you don't recognize that they can't continue to erode into the pie as it has been in the past. LB 2 has been an honest attempt on my part and my committee's part to try to resolve this issue and to resolve it at a time that does not affect the school districts in any way, shape, or form before the ball game starts. We are changing the rules and that is the reason you need to do it today rather than a regular session. We are changing the rules in time for them to adjust before they send out their contracts in March, before they begin to hire their personnel for the next school year. It is unfortunate that we have to do these things. It is unfortunate that the economy is like it is but my guess is that we'd be eventually having to do these kind of things regardless of the economy because it simply doesn't make sense to continue down the road with a system that encourages misuse, and the system that we have been funding it does. I urge you to vote for LB 2. I urge you to seriously consider the ramifications in future sessions. If there are any problems, and if people really aren't getting services, you can be assured that you will see my face back in the hearing rooms again and hear my voice telling you to change it so that people can get services because that is not my intention. I am really not the Grinch that stole Christmas and I don't intend to be but I do intend to try to set up a system so that Christmases can be enjoyed by all. That is what I think LB 2 is all about. With that, I would like to ask to withdraw that motion, Mr. President. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: It is withdrawn. Do you wish to read the bill, Mr. Clerk, please?

CLERK: (Read LB 2 on Final Reading.)

SPEAKER NICHOL: All provisions of law relative to procedure