

proactive and will show many, many benefits in the future and is an extremely good up front investment in delivery of service system that we have in this state. Five years of planning went into this bill that you're looking at today, plus including there a two-year demonstration project. It's not something that has come up because we have to. It's not something that we're just on the spur of the moment reacting to. It has gone through a problem solving session. It has brought in a lot of people that deal with the problem and that have come up with some solutions. I think we need to look at more and more of the type of programs and the need that we have for planning, for going to a planning process, and people that know me very well know I harp on this all the time or continue to talk about sitting down with groups and problem solving in looking at a direction that we want to take, that we have some good information as to why we should do that and not, in my estimation, constantly just reacting. And, for that reason, I think that Senator Rasmussen's bill deserves our support and that we should advance it. And, with that, I would yield the rest of my time to Senator Rasmussen.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: How much time do we...a couple of minutes?

SPEAKER BAACK: You have about three minutes with this and then your light is the next light on.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: All right, thank you. Thank you, Senator Hillman, I appreciate your insights as being close to the demonstration project and also appreciate the time. I want to answer a couple of questions that came up. Senator Robinson asked, I believe this was the question he was asking when he ran out of time. It's whether or not this project has any impact on the state Medicaid dollars. No, it does not. There are no new state Medicaid dollars involved in terms of matching to get the 60 percent or 61 or 59 percent from the federal level. What we are doing is taking dollars that we are already spending that are authorized through the Department of Education for special education for three services that the federal government ruled in 1990 were appropriate for using Medicaid as a way to help offset the costs of those, physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy. So we are using existing dollars for special ed as the 40 percent match for federal dollars. It has no absolutely no impact on state dollars that we need in