

families who know best what it's like to have a child with a disability. I mentioned this yesterday, and I will mention it again today, the families that are arguing the strongest for LB 520 are not the ones that are going to benefit from it, because their children are now over age three. But they know that there is a better way to do business, a way that builds on the strengths of families instead of terring them apart, a way that says, parents, you know what is good for your children, and we want to use that as a starting point for developing appropriate services, a way that says not just education is responsible for what happens for children with disabilities, but the community as a whole is responsible, not only the parents, but other agencies, social services, health, as well as private providers, and, I would also add, the religious community if not the business leaders in the community. The children are a shared responsibility for all of us. The old African proverb is it takes a village to raise a child, and nothing could be more true than what we're trying to accomplish with LB 520. And finally, I would share with you that this has been fashioned on the basis of what we have learned for the past two years through the demonstration projects. We know the Medicaid billing system will work, it is all above board. It was upon the direction of the federal government through overruling in 1990 that we saw the opportunity to use Medicaid dollars. Just last week, HCFA was in the State of Nebraska examining what we are doing with this Medicaid billing process, and they say everything is A-okay, it meets with approval in terms of supervision, in terms of referral contacts with physicians, in terms of the way we are paying providers through the Medicaid dollars. I would say that the word Medicaid also...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: ...combined with special education sort of creates great fear in the hearts of people, because both of them are rising costs in this country. But I don't think anybody would say that we shouldn't provide services for children with disabilities,...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: ...nor should we not provide health care services for people of low income. These are not competing interests, this is a way to pull it together in a fashion that means that we can be, not only more effective with the programs