

Mr. President, Health and Human Services Committee, whose Chair is Senator Wesely, to whom was referred LB 732, instructs me to report the same back to the Legislature with the recommendation that it be advanced to General File. That is signed by Senator Wesely as Chair. That's all that I have now, Mr. President. (See pages 819-21 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: All right, thank you. We'll move on to General File and start with a priority bill this morning. LB 183.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 183 was introduced by Senator Baack and Senator Bernard-Stevens. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 5 of this year, Mr. President, at that time it was referred to the Education Committee for public hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have Education Committee amendments pending.

PRESIDENT: Senator Withem, are you going to take the committee amendments?

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body. LB 183, in terms of education policy, may be one of the most important bills we debate and discuss this session. This is not a light weight bill, it's not a frivolous bill, it's a very important, major piece of legislation. I think this bill, along with two or three others that the Education Committee has advanced to the floor of the Legislature this year, will give us an opportunity that we rarely have in this Legislature, and that is to discuss things in education that really matter to parents and really matter to kids. So much of our time, in debating education issues, deal with issues that affect institutions, issues like reorganization of school districts, like funding of school districts, like some of the specific program types of things that we deal with. We spend 90 percent of our time in the Legislature dealing with those. I think Senator Baack is to be commended, along with Senator Bernard-Stevens for bringing a bill of this importance to the Legislature that actually deals with students, actually deals with the quality of education and the parents right to get their kids to have quality education. Throughout the debate this morning I'd ask you to evaluate the speakers, the remarks you are getting against that standard. The concerns that are being raised about the bill, are they concerns about quality of students education, or are they concerns about something else, and continue to ask that question. With that admonition and that general statement of