

and some of which don't, that we need to discuss and we need to work our way through those, but we aren't at a stalemate. What the body has done this morning is worked very well together to solve a number of problems and we are on the verge of taking what was a good piece of legislation and making it much better and much stronger. This is not a new concept. I know if you don't like an idea, if you aren't comfortable with it, you say it is a new idea, something radically different, something far out of the ordinary. It is not. We have pointed...as I pointed out before, we have choice. It is just for people that are willing to finance it on their own, and this just broadens that concept. Secondly, it is an idea that has been discussed. It is not a new idea that Dennis Baack dreamed up in the laboratory of his mind while he was out working in the wheat fields last summer. This is an idea that is sweeping the nation. It is an idea that some of your major critics of the education system are advancing. Reading a book by David Kearns, who is the President of Xerox, and David Kearns, like a lot of people in a business community are flabbergasted at the quality of our education system, and putting some market dynamics behind the system, entering some competitiveness, is an idea that is being advanced across the nation by business leaders, by education leaders. This isn't something new. It isn't something that is being sprung on us. Yeah, there is some discomfort. I know there is some discomfort. If I were a school superintendent that knew that I was lord of my domain and was able to have absolute control over the given number of students that lived in my district and I was about to lose that, I would be uncomfortable. And I think part of the glory of this bill is it makes some of those people uncomfortable. We need some more accountability in our education system. I don't know how many times people privately have discussed that with me here on the floor of the Legislature. This is an accountability bill. The ultimate accountability, it let's people vote with their shoes, vote with their feet as to whether they are getting an adequate education opportunity. The body has done remarkably well this morning with this piece of legislation. It is one that I think is ready for action. I don't know what questions are left unanswered out there that haven't been answered that can't be answered between now and Select File and Final Reading. This isn't a tremendously complex idea...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR WITHEM: ...that is going to take a series of