

still accomplish a great deal by having the forums and by allowing the state department to waive some rules and regs to encourage schools to do some things? I guess I'm a little hesitant in wanting to spend \$200,000 to award schools some things that they are already doing some creative things. And once again...I pose this question only to...I guess to present the question, there may be more than one way to skin a cat and we can still have a lot of restructuring, a lot of good dialogue going on without actually having that outlay of \$200,000 which is not that much, but as Senator Beck just mentioned, if the schools are already doing some things, why do we need extra incentive there? And I guess I'd like to hear your comments on that, Senator Withem.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Withem, would you respond.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah, I'm trying to...I've got four different answers for you, Scott, and I'm trying to decide which one to give at this point. Yeah, there are some schools that are doing some things, not very many frankly, in this whole area of restructuring. It's kind of interesting, the idea of restructuring, all of the pieces to the puzzle have been out there for decades. When I went through teacher training school, you know, I was schooled in the inquiry method of teaching. You know, there are schools out there that are empowering their teachers to make some decisions. The thing with the restructuring is you've got to put all of these ideas together. You've got to have the kids oriented to an active type of learning process. You've got to have the teachers realizing that they are not the folks that stand up in front of the room and dictate all of the knowledge and you've got to have an administration and a school board that will be supportive of that sort of approach. So I don't think that there are schools out there that are doing restructuring right now. Norfolk is probably the closest we have is one, and maybe some things going on in Grand Island, I'm not sure of. Yeah, there probably are other ways to encourage that, but I've not found that there is nothing better than good old style American competition, going out and trying to win something. I suppose we could provide \$10 plaques instead of \$50 grants and I don't know if that would have the same impact or not. I would doubt if it would. I think the dollars, fairly modest sum of money, although for a school district out in your part of the state I suppose to get an additional \$50,000 in a year to fund a particular program would be quite an accomplishment. If there are other ways of