

encouraging this without the money, I'd sure be happy to hear them. I'm not convinced at this point and I think this is...you know, we spend a billion dollars a year on education. We're talking about spending \$200,000 to encourage that that other billion dollars be spent in a way that is meaningful to people and I think it's a fairly modest sum.

SENATOR MOORE: Well, the second part of my question, the two other portions of the bill, the forums and giving the Department of Education the authority to waive some rules and regs to schools who are doing some things differently, I mean, does that in itself, that does something, probably not as much as the grants, but am I correct in that in itself would encourage some of this restructuring or would it be a waste of time just to do those two things?

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute, Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: I think it would be not a waste of time, I think it would be good, but I think what would happen would be you would send some teachers from Stromsburg school. A couple of teachers would go to the forum, they'd come back and they would say to their people, other teachers in the faculty room, went to this great conference on restructuring, we've got to do some things. The other teachers would kind of stare blankly at them and go into their room and deliver their lecture on the Bill of Rights and how it was placed in the Constitution. What we're talking about, the purpose of this money is to create the process in as many school districts as we can, of the parents, the school board, the administrators and the teachers in each community in our state talking about how they can...working together to improve the process. And I don't know if that will happen with a program where you can get \$50,000 to do it. Some may say, well, we don't care, we'll just go ahead and do what we've been doing altogether, but that's the purpose of the grant program.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Hartnett, Senator Schimek on deck.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I'm going to ask Senator Withem some more questions. It is five model programs as I understand, I think you said four, and the choice will be made by the state department and I think you said that also. The thing is like Omaha Public, I see stands simply back