

grants? Why does there have to be a grant attached to it? If it's a worthy idea and if school boards are interested in improving the grass roots participation, which I think this restructuring does and I like that part of it, why can't we do it without the grant of \$50,000 to a school district? And then, finally, another question, and that is, would you explain Section 6 a little bit better that says that a participating school may waive any school board policy which has been identified as a barrier in any model restructuring program?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah, trying to remember, first question is, does this appropriate more money for more staff in the State Department of Education? No, it does not. All of this money would be used to either fund the grants or would fund the forums themselves, the expenses involved with the forums. The question of why the state department staff can't do it on its own, I guess the response to that is they just haven't done it on their own. I think they probably could. They have not chosen to do so. The third question dealing with, are the grants absolutely necessary to the specific districts, I don't know if you were here a second ago, I kind of engaged in a dialogue with Senator Moore on that very question and to summarize what I said then at that time is that, yeah, it could be done without the grants but I think we need some sort of incentive out there for the school districts to do this, this type of thing. They could be doing it today and, frankly, they aren't. When you go to particularly administrator meetings, you don't hear a lot of talk about the administrators talking about the needs to improve education. They are talking about the needs to, and understandably, they are talking about the needs to get the money to finance the programs they now have. Fourthly, could I explain number 6, that the State Department of Education may waive any State Department of Education rule or regulation. This is kind of fundamental to the restructuring idea. The theory is that there are some administrators out there, there are some teachers out there that may like to be doing...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR WITHEM: ...doing things differently than they are now, but they look at state department rules and regs and they won't let them do it. If, in their plans, they identify, just as an example, that the manner in which they are going to teach a