

from its concept, but had difficulty with it because it's moving too fast and because I haven't seen any support for it in my district. I'm getting this same lack of support from across the state. We have a problem in our state today and it deals with funding. We have so many bills before us, we have LB 259, we have LB 89, we have this ag land values bill, we have 20 some odd tax refund bills before us. It just throws the whole thing into a cocked hat, and it looks to me like we're asking these school boards to take an awful lot of responsibility when we ask them then to develop a budget that is going to include figuring out some way to send these kids to option districts. It appears to me like we really have given them quite a chore to get this situation figured in their own budget. So, the amendment simply says that the state funds will be used to provide the tuition assistance that is required to send a student to a receiving district. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. On the Dierks amendment, Senator Withem, followed by Senator Baack.

SENATOR WITHEM: I would simply rise to oppose the Dierks amendment. Don't know what Senator Baack is going to do, maybe I should have listened to him first, maybe he thinks it's a wonderful idea, I don't know. I don't, I don't think it is. I very quickly and simply just say yesterday, yesterday we worked on a financial amendment that, as I understand it, was worked out between Senator Baack and the NRCSA organization, the organization that has been the most concerned about financial impact. That organization, I think, has indicated that they're probably not dancing in the streets with...holding massive rallies supporting 183 as a result of that amendment. But I believe that adequately took care of their financial concerns. I guess I can't see a need to put a different color on it here today after yesterday we did something that we thought was the right thing to do. So I would urge members to not support the Dierks amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Baack, please.

SENATOR BAACK: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members, I also rise in opposition to Senator Dierks' amendment because what it does is it takes out any incentive for the resident district to do any better, it takes out any accountability that is into the bill, and that is what the bill is all about is accountability in education. When you take this out and you don't have any