

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The Chair would like to pause for just a moment and introduce guests of Senators Coordsen and Warner from Crete. We have 12 fourth grade students. Would you folks please wave and be recognized, in the north balcony, there they are. Thank you. Thank you, we're glad to have you with us. Senator Bernard-Stevens followed by Senator Schmit.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President, just a quick comment. Even before we get to the discussion on the funding mechanism that Senator Schmit is going to ask us to do and whether or not we're playing games with the bill or whether or not we're having a serious attempt to have another funding source, I think that debate needs to take place on the Schmit amendment. Senator Withem's amendment to the amendment is something that should be agreed to regardless of whether you're going to vote for the amendment or not, in my opinion, simply because if the amendment would be agreed to, without the Withem amendment there is no fund at this point in the bill to put the money in. So the Withem amendment is a legitimate amendment that should be agreed to regardless of how you're going to vote on the Schmit amendment and then we'll get to the serious discussion on that amendment at that time. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Schmit, you've waived off?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yeah.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Scofield, followed by Senator Lynch. Thank you. Senator Lynch, on the amendment to the amendment.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. Chairman, I would rise and support the amendment. I just would like to mention one or two things. It is interesting that with issue with teachers we're all of a sudden concerned about raising the money for it. Apparently there is something different about teachers. When the Governor made her budget proposal which talked about \$100 million more with the spending, nobody even was worried about whether or not we need a tax increase. We're premature in determining how much of a tax increase we need to meet whatever priorities might come out of the Appropriations Committee and the other bills that are now on the floor, but with teachers, for some reason with teachers, we have to worry about that now and in this bill.