

SENATOR WITHEM: Would it be inappropriate to call the question at this point?

PRESIDENT: Well, if you just turn your light off, you will be the last one.

SENATOR WITHEM: Okay.

PRESIDENT: The question is the...now, Senator Moore, did you want to close?

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, I will close.

PRESIDENT: Okay.

SENATOR MOORE: While we don't wander away too far, let's all make sure we know exactly what the score is here in the game. What the amendment does, quite simply, is it, for one, it gives us all a way to vote for LB 89 and achieves the same goal so many have for doing something for education this session. But it, you know, I don't think there is anybody in this body that thinks a kill motion on this bill would actually go. It just probably will not happen. We won't kill this bill because of all the pressures out there twisting our arms. That's not going to happen. With this amendment you don't kill the bill, you alter it drastically while at the same time you are giving money for education, \$20 million. Twenty million dollars you are saying that this body is willing to put forward to education this year and if you're not willing to raise tax rates, like we weren't with Senator Schmit's amendment, and Senator Withem's amendment, \$20 million, in itself, is going to be probably tough to get. If you ask Senator Warner and others, \$20 million dollars is going to be a lot easier said than done, but at least we're going to be on record saying we're not going to make all the changes in LB 89, we're going to fund...give some money to state aid by this amendment and the subsequent in the A bill, we're going to put \$20 million additional money into our existing state aid formulas. Now any other year, Ron Withem, Dan Lynch, Herb Schimek, would be doing cart...Jerry Chizek, would be doing cartwheels. Twenty million dollars of state aid, they would be doing cartwheels to have that accomplished. But this year, this year there is a proposal that's caught up a lot of steam and spent a lot of money on called H.E.L.P. that is the answer to all of our educational problems in the state. (inaudible) with the NSEA in their newsletter that came out