

reappropriating money, that's already been spent, into a program that doesn't exist. That's what Section 11 does. The third point is that talk has been made about your priorities. Where are your priorities? Are they with public education or private education? It's kind of a ridiculous argument, I think, when you look at the facts. The facts are as a state we spend a quarter of a billion dollars of taxpayer dollars supporting public institutions. That allows people, our students, to go to public institutions at a much lower rate than they go...they can go to private institutions. That's fine, that's good, that's what public education is all about. I do support that. I stand here on this floor casting votes in support of public education, public postsecondary education all the time. A quarter of a billion dollars, give or take a few million, and we all know a few million doesn't make a whole lot of difference one way or the other in this body anymore, but a quarter of a million dollars. Do you know how much students that attended private colleges and universities got last year out of this program? Less than a quarter of a million dollars. One tenth of one percent of the dollars, tax dollars that we spent. To stand here on the floor and say you think this is the ruination of public education, if we give a few more of the crumbs off the table to those students that attend private schools is...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR WITHEM: ...wouldn't use the term hogwash because I know that gets us in trouble in here so, Senator Conway, I won't use the term hogwash. It's a much kinder, gentler term than that to denote a term with which I do not particularly agree. I think that this is language that does not belong in this particular bill and I would urge you to stand forth and help remove this language.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Moore has some guests in our north balcony, 19 third and fourth graders from Bradshaw public schools with their teachers. Would you people please stand and be welcomed. And also Senator Nelson has guests in our south balcony, 50 fourth graders from Howard school in Grand Island with their teachers. Would you folks please stand. Thank you. We're delighted to have you students with us this morning. Additional discussion. Senator Schmit, followed by Senators Warner, Hall and Rod Johnson. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I very rarely get