

involved in education issues because they are very difficult and I usually follow the leadership of those individuals who have more experience than I do on that. But I do want to say this. I do not know, as Senator Hannibal has said, that if we make this decision now in support of the amendment that we are making a policy decision for all time which will stand perhaps to the detriment, and I don't think he really used those words but I took it that way, of public education. But I do want to say this that I do think from time to time it is fitting and proper that policy decisions are made by the entire body and I believe that, to the extent that funding governs what we do on this floor and you and I know it governs everything, the presence of money or the absence of money creates a program or wipes out a program; the increase of funds expands a program; decrease a fund, reduces the program. The money is everything. Without the money, you have nothing. One of the lobbyists for the private schools gave me a little bit of information and indicated that under the existing language in 812 funds would be appropriated to a program which does not exist in law. Now I do not know how we do that and I would like to ask Senator Withem if he agrees with that statement or not and he can have the rest of my time to do so. And I would like to know if it's done, how it's done and if it's expandable to some other area of government and how we do that.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Withem, approximately three minutes.

SENATOR WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Schmit, I appreciate the use of the time. Yeah, I agree with your characterization that we're appropriating dollars that have already been spent into a program that doesn't yet exist. I don't know of any precedent for having done that before. I would hope that if there is one, we would hear about it. Appreciate the seeding of the rest of the time, yielding of the rest of the time to me. Just a couple of clerical points. As oftentimes happens, there are members who have been preoccupied with other things and come in in the middle of a debate and I have been asked a couple of questions that I can, hopefully, clarify on the record. Number one is I have been asked if this amendment is in writing. It is, it's on page 1890. All it does is a simple strike Section 11 of LB 812. It's not terribly complicated. The other thing is, you know, we've got almost one of these triple negative sort of things going here so it's difficult to understand. The chronology I might be able to lay out that maybe you can understand what it is I'm asking you to vote on and how I would like you to vote if