

which I just confirmed, it appears to me that we're talking about \$106,000 here and that concerns me, it really does, that we should have to create a law to enforce a policy that we apparently have incorrectly applied, maybe illegally applied. Maybe that hasn't been tested, I'm not sure, since this fund was developed. And that should be a concern to all of us. I think we should establish in the statutes, I guess, policy whenever it's important but simply not when it's convenient and it appears that that could be the circumstance at the present time. But if you...as I understand it, 76 percent of those...of that one million eight now goes to public institutions, about 24 percent to private institutions, that major shift would be a percentage of 70 percent and 30 percent, so 6 percent. And you can figure it out yourself, it's about a 100 grand. I'm not quite sure if the integrity of the state, the policy of the state or the good will and intention of the body should be this much exercised over this amount of money. So it would appear that maybe the debate is even out of proportion to the problem, that we're really debating over something that isn't that important and it shouldn't be just to save face because we have adopted that kind of a procedure and policy for the last few years. So it would seem to me that the amendment that Senator Withem offers does, in fact, make a lot of sense from a policy point of view, also from the point of view of being consistent with what we hope is, in fact, doing the right thing at the right time with the kind of funds and giving it to those it was intended to help.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Question.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Pursuant to Rule 7, Section 4, shall debate close? I do see five hands? Those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed nay. Record, please.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate ceases. Senator Withem, would you care to close?

SENATOR WITHEM: It's been a good, healthy debate on an important policy issue. I have very little to add to what has been debated other than just a clarification of what it is I am