

not the school district but the cost of the test is what is contained in the appropriation in this. And to get the test from, you know, NAEP is, obviously, not the federal part of education, it's a private organization.

SENATOR WITHEM: (Microphone not activated) ...I believe, is the company that is contracted to develop and administer the test.

SENATOR MOORE: Just so I've got this correct, but that is not the long arm of the federal government that some people are concerned about with this bill?

SENATOR WITHEM: I don't believe it is, no.

SENATOR MOORE: Okay, that's...no further questions.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Withem, would you care to close on the motion to return?

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah, I would. I appreciate the opportunity to respond to the questions. I appreciate the discussion of the rules and the merits of 744 as a bill in and of itself. I hope those were valuable to members of the body to at least establish the legislative intent of what it is we're attempting to accomplish. Back to the amendments themselves, what the amendments are designed to do, and it is my clear intent that we're doing this, is to take the concerns that you have heard as a senator from people in your district that this bill invades privacy, that it gathers personal data, that it is detrimental to the home schools, that it puts the state government in charge of the curriculum, that those things won't happen. That's what the amendment does. It takes what I have heard to be the most severe criticisms of this bill and puts in statute guaranteeing that those things will not happen. That's what the amendment does. So I would suggest that everybody ought to be supportive of this bill unless...unless your desire is to invade privacy or your desire is to put new restrictions on the home schools through the passage of these bills. None of those are my intent. So I would say these amendments really do need to be adopted. Then if you don't...if some of the other concerns that were raised about the need for increased information about our school systems are still concerns, we can continue to debate the bill and have an honest difference of opinion on that. But because we have spent so much time talking about the bill itself, I am asking you to return your focus at this point onto