

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...has done a tremendous help in providing relief in funding. This \$18 million in state aid will not do a tremendous amount of good in the education field in regards to education and it will not do anything to reduce property taxes. The other thing I'd like to kind of close on is, again, the numbers that Senator Kristensen used and I don't blame Senator Kristensen because I think this is what they were using. We said that Senator Chizek had a bill for \$38 million for state aid. It never made it out of committee. The Legislature then passed \$20 million and I kind of take exemption from that really because we were starting at 150, but I'd like to say we didn't pass 20, we were wheedled down to 20 and that, if you subtract 38 million from a bill that is still in committee, subtract from that 20 million, that means we have...

SPEAKER BARRETT: time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...18 million of that left and that's how we can afford it. That's absurd. We need to grow and we need to take the lead and say, no, and it pains me to do so. Vote for the reconsideration, please, and let's do what we're here to do.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator McFarland, please.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, fellow senators, I urge Senator Lynch not to withdraw his reconsideration motion. I think that there is a change in the sentiment of the members of this Legislature concerning the vote on the Kristensen amendment, and I'm pleased to hear that some of the senators who said they voted yes on that amendment are now reconsidering. You know, as I listened to the debate on that particular amendment I had some of my friends on the Education Committee and some of my other friends in the Legislature who are generally supportive of education make very good points about why state aid at this time and at this place in our session was inappropriate. I heard some of them say that the money wasn't there. I heard some of them say that the teachers' salary is the top priority and at this time state aid is a secondary priority. I heard some of them say that just giving money and throwing money at the education problem will not help and we should really be thinking about restructuring education to make it more efficient, more cost effective and really have the