

SENATOR WITHEM: In other words, I have to stand here and talk about them whether I want to or not, that's fine.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The option is yours.

SENATOR WITHEM: Okay, no, thank you. Thank you, Senator Barrett, maybe I should remind people the situation that we are currently in. The committee amendments have been changed only slightly by the Schmit amendment. They still, my previous recollection of what they are involved with are here in the list that Larry Scherer provided for you to follow the committee amendments. The committee amendments really do need to be adopted. There may be a temptation by people to vote no on the committee amendments now, thinking that this will stymie the process. The process is still one where this Legislature does, in fact, need to act on the issue this session because we do have an expiration of nonresident tuition facing us next year. We do need to pass legislation. The green copy of LB 259 is obsolete and if...frankly, it is not a bill that I would feel comfortable in continuing to carry if the committee amendments are not adopted, so procedurally I think we really do need to adopt the committee amendments, consider some other amendments to the bill that at this point are fairly technical and then advance the bill on to the next stage of consideration and we can revisit some of these issues before you. So it is my advice to you at this point to vote yes on the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lamb, would you care to offer comments on the committee amendments.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, I stand to oppose the committee amendments and you've heard my arguments, and so let me offer you this scenario. You oppose the committee amendments, if you vote down the committee amendments, then they will come back. They will come back with the other amendments which are more reasonable. That is what will happen. That was a very close vote, lost it by about one or two. Several people not on the floor of the Legislature today that would, I think, voted to support my amendment. Had my amendment gone, I would vote for the committee amendments, the bill, just as I voted for 940 for which, by the way, I got a lot of dissatisfied people in my area. But nevertheless, vote against the committee amendments and I'm sure we will come back with a proposal that is much more workable and much more fair than the one proposed under the committee amendments.