

classrooms.

SENATOR SMITH: Good. That's what I...I'm...

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR SMITH: ...glad to hear that and I'm glad that's in the record. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Dierks, please, followed by Senator Withem .

SENATOR DIERKS: Mr. President and members of the body, I am not supporting this legislation. I didn't support it in committee and I have difficulty supporting it today. I don't really have a problem with Senator Schimek's intent, it's just that I believe that there are some things in this legislation that could cause us some problems down the road. I don't believe that we need to be expanding state authority in our schools again. I don't believe that the cost should be shared if we should have that cost increase. I think there are those who have some authority across this nation who...or would like to have, who would like to have complete control of our children. I think they would like to start at age three, we're finding that all the time. I think there are parents who object to that. I'm sure there are some parents who agree that that's all right, they would like to have the teachers taking care of their kids from then on. But, with me, it's a problem, I just don't believe this is what we need to do. I have another problem with the fact that we're going to be asking teachers to educate our children and we haven't even done a very good job of educating our educators. We can't be too proud of the fact that we have a functional illiteracy rate in the neighborhood of 16 percent in this state. We can't even get people to learn how to...that many people can't read or write beyond the fifth grade level. I think it shows us that we are pretty sadly lacking in certain areas and I wonder if we should be getting into this sort of a thing where at the kindergarten level we're going to be starting to talk about death and dying and about family planning, for crying out loud. These things just go against the grain with me. I guess my perception is that with this legislation we are providing school-based health clinics and I know that people don't like to hear that and I know that people will object to that, say that that isn't happening here but that, in my estimation, it's open-ended, it does allow that sort of a thing