

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Withem, did you wish to speak on this matter?

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, I would, Mr. President. This is a very significant amendment, probably would incur more wrath if this were adopted than had the Lamb amendment been adopted from folks in the Class II's and the Class III's because you're getting into an area here that has been a long-standing controversy, and that is, how do you charge residents of Class I districts for supporting high schools? A few years ago the...back prior to my tenure on the Education Committee, the Legislature changed this method of financing charging nonresident tuition. It has been argued about, it has been tested in court. The Supreme Court has declared our current method is constitutional. What Senator Rogers' amendment would do would be to go back to another method, the previous method that we did use, or a different method, anyway, than what we're using, moving, I think, backwards. May not literally be moving backwards to something that was in operation previous to this time. We did consider this. As a matter of fact, this is pretty much the way the green copy of 259 is written. That's the reason in your bill book you'll see all those people testifying against 259. They all said that the committee amendments were okay, but when they saw the green copy there they wanted to make sure they got listed as being in opposition to it because of this method of calculation. We did a computer run on this and what we did simply was we took a year, I don't know if it was '86-87, '87-88, or what the year was, and said, let's assume we would charge for nonresident tuition under Senator Carson Rogers amendments formula here versus what we currently do; would have been a nine million dollar impact. What it will result in is at least in that particular year, I don't know what it would be today, but in that particular year it would have been a nine million tax reduction for Class I residents if this amendment were in place back in those days. It's...it will bring them out. If you like to get a lot of correspondence, if you're sad because you haven't heard from your local high school superintendents and school board members and all, you will if this amendment goes on because this is big, big ticket item. It also, because of the way the equalization formula operates under our current funding formula, you'll be hearing from the folks in Omaha and in Lincoln and in Bellevue and Papillion and all of those places, because part of that nine million dollar tax reduction that will result for Class I residents will be