

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah.

SENATOR COORDSEN: The school board, certainly I understand that, my question was on waiving the State Board of Education rules and regs.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah, we certainly...we allow them to establish rules and regs and we also indicate that they may have the power to waive in these particular cases, yeah. The question is a simple can we do it legally? Yeah, sure we can.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Peterson, please.

SENATOR PETERSON: Mr. President, Senator Withem, I've got a couple of questions. Senator Withem, on page 4, lines 11 and through 13, what does this mean? The purpose of the program shall be to provide state incentives for local schools and school districts to undertake school restructuring projects. What do you...what...explain that. What...?

SENATOR WITHEM: Well, that's kind of what I have been talking about here is that the concept of a restructuring project or restructuring of schools is based on the philosophy that the traditional way of educating children may not be as effective as we like to think it is. It doesn't have anything to do with reorganizing schools. It has to do with what happens when a teacher walks into the classroom and has 30 students in front of them, when the students walk in the door of a building, whether it be a large school building or a small school building, and how can we do a better job of getting those students that Senator Schmit's concerned about that can't fill out their job applications, can't spell words, how can we do a better job of educating them. We know a lot about how kids learn well but a lot of what goes on in the classroom of a given school, whether it be one in Madison County or one in Papillion, Nebraska, or any place, isn't taking its full advantage of that information as we need. If the concern again is whether...you know, I don't know what I'm reading into your question but maybe we'll just go ahead. If there is another question, I'll try to respond to it.

SENATOR PETERSON: Okay. On page 5, number 4, the commission, as I read that, just serves as an advisory capacity, the