

out applications don't know how to spell, don't how to read. The people that Senator Chambers spoke with up in some of the schools that he and I were talking with the other day don't do as good a job of communicating their thoughts and writing as they should, that we have a very real danger as a nation if we don't start doing a better job of educating young people of being in a situation where we're going to lose what competitive edge we have left with the rest of the world. And if we don't take seriously our responsibility as state policymakers to set in place some things to improve educational quality in our country,...

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thirty seconds.

SENATOR WITHEM: ...we are then not going to maintain the standard of living that we have now and our young people coming on after us aren't going to have then. That's what this bill is about and that's why that language is in there. It has nothing to do with the other connotations that people have when they see the word "global" that somehow sends them into a frenzy of some kind or other. I think it's a good bill. I think you ought to support the bill. I appreciate the comments and the questions. It's one we probably ought to spend more time discussing and debating on what we can do as a Legislature to improve education, because since I have been here we haven't really done a very effective job as a Legislature of impacting on quality education issues as far as our kindergarten through high school students are concerned. And I think this bill will move us in that direction and I would urge your support for it.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Korshoj, please.

SENATOR KORSHOJ: Senator Hannibal and lesser members, I guess it is, I will give...I'll give Senator Withem and Pirsch some time. I've just got a couple of comments. It looks like the program would be a pilot program of probably eight school districts participating in and whoever writes the best request is going to get the grants, I'm sure. But when this is all over with, said and done, there is a possibility nothing will come out of it. It's...we don't know what, it could be the end of the program and the end of the line.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah, it could be.