

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Baron.

SENATOR HEFNER: Toe-crusher.

PRESIDENT: Now, Senator Ashford, would you like to close, please?

SENATOR ASHFORD: I appreciate the fact that my amendment caused Senator Hefner and Senator Chambers to talk about the bill, finally, in any event, but in answer to Senator Withem, even though Senator Chizek drafted the amendment to the gun bill, that wasn't enough to cause you to vote for it, so I'm going to start drafting some of my own and see what happens. But...it would be interesting. I'm going to try and help this bill as much as possible before I probably have to vote no. In any event, in answer to Senator Moore's....But...so I'm sort of a good guy, bad guy, but on this one probably more a bad guy, but on this amendment basically what we're doing, as I said, is that there are contractual obligations out there. It's a little different from the amendments that have come before it and a little bit different than the issue that Senator Lamb raised about transportation. These are ongoing contractual obligations of school districts, which, if this amendment does not go...that are now ongoing, these would not be new contractual obligations made after the bill goes into effect, but are ongoing contractual obligations that deal with teacher wages which are the largest percentage of costs in these school...or the largest percent of the cost to the school district anyway. If we do not pass this amendment, it will be in all likelihood, as Senator Withem mentions, a dollar for dollar encroachment into other programs. So I think this is the kind of amendment that it's not really an exception or exemption because it is not an ongoing obligation of the Legislature, but it just deals with those contracts which are in force. With that, I would again urge the adoption of the amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. The question is the adoption of the Ashford amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Apparently, we'll have to have a call of the house and...

PRESIDENT: Okay, the question is, shall the house go under call.