

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Hefner, would you like to discuss the motion to reconsider? Thank you. Senator Withem, any discussion? Senator Smith, any discussion on the reconsideration?

SENATOR SMITH: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I will not take five minutes of my time, but I just want to say I thank Senator Chambers for stating better than I ever could what it is was my purpose for bringing this. I would also want to clarify, to those of you that are in the body that aren't paying any attention at all, that a question was asked of me, who are you pushing this for? Who are you promoting this for? I want to make sure you all know that there is no special interest that I'm pushing this for. This is my concern and Senator Chambers said it very well, I think it's a fairness issue. This bill was not intended to raise money for some other fund. It's to fund education and that is why I thought it was only fair then that we take the money that was raised, maybe inadvertently, I don't know if they were aware of this originally, but put that money into the concern that we have facing us here and that's how we're going to fund it, and it's that simple. In fact, I almost take offense at that question that was asked of me because I feel very strongly that those that are sitting here that are not listening because they already know how they're going to vote have been told that they're not to vote for this and we all know who told them not to. And I usually don't like doing that on the floor but I just do take a little offense at being asked that question. I think it's a fairness issue. It's the same as it was when Senator Haberman raised it on the other issue that we had when we were talking about not increasing it. Now I'm saying if we're going to increase it to 5 cents, let's take that penny's worth of money and let's put it into this concern that we have facing us right now and that's how we're going to pay for this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Withem, did you care to discuss the reconsideration motion? The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. Shall debate now cease? Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Please record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate ceases. Senator Chambers, to close.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature,