

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If it is just for three years, why not just forever?

SENATOR WITHEM: Because the three-year is for purposes of those school districts who will not receive as much state aid to adjust their programs and adjust their ability to fund their own programs at the local level. It is a phase...a period where they can phase out.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Why not take away the hold harmless provision altogether, then by three years from now, they will have adjusted to it? The pain will be over.

SENATOR WITHEM: The pain well might be over by that time, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So would you...I know you don't support this amendment, but would you support one of the kind I am talking about?

SENATOR WITHEM: No.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You don't believe that if somebody has a sickness that requires the administration of medicine, that you go in and give them a dose right now sufficient to cure the sickness, you don't believe in that?

SENATOR WITHEM: I don't know if they are a sick district, Senator Chambers. I guess I have problems with that analogy.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Withem.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Abboud, would you like to close on your amendment.

SENATOR ABOUD: Well, Mr. President, and colleagues, again, it is a small amount of money to make the school districts whole. Two million dollars is a drop in the bucket when you look at the overall impact on this, and since it adversely affects a few districts but the districts it does affect, to a large degree, does cause financial hardship, I think that we should go ahead and adopt the amendment. I would like to also add that we are not really taking away anything here. A lot of these districts, such as the one I represent, Ralston, they have been receiving this state aid for years now, and what we are talking about, actually, is taking away aid that they currently have. We are