

to say in a different way. And so I think this is an opportunity to address those problems, to make the systems work better, and, frankly, to build more public support for higher education than there is out there right now. I would guess that if you talk to people across the state also about what they want us to do and what their concerns are, that there is still a relative...there is certainly less than 50 percent of the population out there that have given a great deal of thought to what we should do about higher education, and if we all check our files about who we are hearing from, by and large, we are still not hearing as much from the person in the street as we are from individual members of institutions, people who have, either they are alumni association member, or they are a member of the faculty, or whomever, and I think we have an obligation to continue to take this out to the public and to say to the public, yes, you do have a chance to talk more about this, and you do have an opportunity to make the system work better, and did you know you are spending this much money on it, and are you getting what you need, and are your kids getting what they need? And so we have an obligation as a body to pursue this and to take that message to the public, and to bracket this, I am just really concerned that I...I know why Senator Withem has introduced this. He has already said why, but I'd sure hate to have this inadvertently work and have this bill sort of fade off into the mist, and then be just another failure of this session because I think this has more potential to do good than probably most of the other bills that are out there...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: ...in terms of addressing some problems that we have in this state. There is a need to address this issue now, and Senator Withem made an interesting comment, the support just hasn't gelled as it should. Well, that is true, Senator Withem, and I don't know that I am smart enough to explain why, but I think one of those reasons is we still need that public debate and discussion that putting this on the ballot would bring about. Senator Schimek's amendment the other day made me weigh once again the wisdom of the balance and should we elect and should we appoint, and I voted against her idea which at first I was inclined to vote for. But just that act of debating and thinking about these things I think is important to build support, because as I weighed what I thought the impact of her option would be versed what is in the bill right now, I came away even more committed to this idea than I had been before.