

the same class that doesn't have anyone else to speak for you, and if you would go through the 27 different organizations that are now involved in coordinating the adult literacy, you would see the wonderful response, and with that, I will conclude and it is just for people to help other people that donate their time, and it is only for \$6,000.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion, Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. Speaker, and members of the body, I am afraid we might be about ready to prove once again one of Senator Schmit's adages, and if you are tired of hearing Senator Schmit say, I told you so, you ought to vote yes on this because he always says it is easier to override \$6 million, spend \$6 million, then it is 6,000, and this is a simple \$6,000 request. This is a group of folks who are working as volunteers. They came to us. I have to admit Senator Nelson has certainly done the lion's share of the work on this project. What they want to do is have a conference in order to train adult literacy counselors. There are, unfortunately, a number of people in our state who are not literate adults, and without basic adult literacy, they have difficulty making it in this world. There are volunteers out in our state that are doing their level best to try to teach people that don't know how to read and write to learn how to read and write. What the bill says, basically, is that we are going to put up \$6,000, we will match that dollar for dollar for dollars that are raised from the private sources. As a parenthetical expression here, if any of you ever need any fund raiser, Senator Arlene Nelson is certainly a good one. She has been out and doing an excellent job assuring the fact that we are going to get the other \$6,000 to cover this. This is a program, it is one of those where if you train people through a conference on how to train other individuals, the dollars will grow exponentially. If you spend \$6,000 to hire somebody to go out and train people, you only train...you will only, to teach reading to people that don't know how to read, you will only train a certain number of people. If you train people how to train other individuals, it will grow tremendously. It is like if you spent \$6,000 to buy fish for people, you will feed them for a few days. If you teach them how to fish, you will feed them for a lifetime. I know that is a cliché but I think it is appropriate in this particular case. It is a very small appropriation and I think it is one well worth support from the Legislature and I would urge you to support it.