

Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Madam Chair, members of the body, let me talk just a little bit about the Lynch amendment and what I think we did with the Lynch amendment and I'm going to offer a suggestion to the body and to Senator Dierks concerning his amendment. First of all I'm still a little troubled by the Lynch amendment. I think when I spoke in favor of it this morning I indicated that I liked the general policy direction Senator Lynch is going, but I wasn't 100 percent sure that the way in which it was phrased was best and I was going to vote for it and then offer to help work between now and Select File on some refinements if we need them because the 200 figure, frankly I don't know if that's a good number or a bad number, it's in the bill now. I think what we did by adopting the amendment was that we sent the message that we have an interest in moving in that direction. We need to refine it now. What Senator Dierks has here is a refinement. It may or may not be a good one. I don't know at this point. One administrator shared by two or more school districts may be employed full-time regardless of the combined average daily membership of the school districts. If we are going to get into this area of trying to regulate expenses by dealing with a number of administrators out there, do we want to say that one Class I school with six students and another one with ten students, that between the two of them they can employ a full-time administrator? Does that make sense? I don't know if it does or it doesn't. I just don't feel comfortable adopting the Dierks amendment at this point. I think what we ought to do is maybe look at it again on Select File. Maybe by that time I will feel comfortable if we, Senator Dierks, Senator Lynch and a few of us sit down together and talk about what it is we really want to do with this whole administrator issue. It's a new one we're embarking into and I think maybe we need to work on it a little more. My preference would be to hold off on this so I'm probably not going to be supporting it. It's not because I reject the idea out of hand. It may, in fact, be a very good idea but it may also need some refinement, so...and I guess we have to pick our...just what feels right for us at the moment, whether we feel comfortable adopting things and then fixing them up later or whether we feel more comfortable waiting on things. This is one I just feel a little more comfortable waiting on, so I, for one, Senator, will not be voting for Senator Dierks' amendment although I appreciate his intent is that to further clarify what Senator Lynch had done this morning.