

later if we can. So we're just going to work straight through. The next speaker is Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Question.

SPEAKER BAACK: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. We will now vote on ceasing debate. All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed vote no. We are voting on ceasing debate. Have you all voted? We're voting on ceasing debate. Have you all voted? Debate has ceased...oh, record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Debate has ceased. Senator Abboud, do you wish to close on your amendment?

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes, I do, Mr. President and colleagues. This particular amendment, as I said, was essentially the same as an amendment that we adopted probably about an hour and a half ago. It was brought by Senator Withem on a vote of 30 to 2. The difference is the funding level. Now we supported the concept of \$5 million to be used in this performance-based system. There is a lot of different terms that you can use for this and I could have brought in an amendment that would have used terms that would jump out, that the lobby would say, well, you know, we're not quite sure what this term means and I'm going to tell you all the bad things that I think it could mean and I guess in nine years in the system I've learned a couple of tricks of the trade and that is, use their own language. They accepted that language two years ago in LB 89 for the total of \$15 million to be used in the system. The majority of this body chose to accept the terms of performance-based system an hour and a half ago for \$5 million, and I think it's a good system. Senator Withem had a great amendment. Some people say we're moving too fast. Well, the only thing I'm looking at is the statistics. I handed out a chart there that showed how America compares, when we get into comparisons between Japan. In addition to that the middle countries, there were 14 different countries from throughout the world and averaging them together that is what the chart showed that we were behind them all and we're way behind Japan. I also handed out a chart that showed that trends in public school spending has consistently gone up in current dollars. Right now we spend a lot per pupil but then on the other hand, we have a chart that shows our ACT scores dropping