

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Rasmussen. Senator Wesely, followed by Senator Moore.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President. I probably won't be supporting very many overrides at all but I rise in support of this one because, as I understand the situation, there is, in fact, \$300,000 available, as Senator Withem and Senator Rasmussen have said, to fund the \$300,000 element of this bill in the childhood pilot projects. The other 135,000 in this override, I have just asked the Education Department whether, if we override, are they required to spend that money. They're not certain at this time. But it may be the situation that that money is authorized for them to spend but not required that it be spent and it may be that they could hold back that and not spend that other money that they won't need to spend and that Senator Moore and the Appropriations Committee could come back at this issue early next session and make an adjustment so that this amendment, as adopted, could be revenue neutral, that it could end up not having an additional impact on the budget. I don't know if that all fits and they're checking now to see if that's possible but it's...it's enough of a likelihood for me to feel comfortable that this override has the potential of not having a negative impact on the budget. I don't know how much of a potential but there is some potential for that. I think we ought to pursue it. I was a co-sponsor of the bill, along with Senator Crosby and Senator Withem and other...I can't remember who all we had on it, Senator Bernard-Stevens. And we...one of the unfortunate parts of it, as we were talking with Senator Withem, that we don't remember that legislation, it's so long ago, it's clear last year. But we spent a lot of time on that issue and worked our way through and finally got it signed. And it's one of those things again, Senator Lynch talked about that, it came at our initiative but I'm very grateful the Department of Education has recognized the value of the program and is willing to make adjustments in their budget to fund it. It shows that this program that came from this Legislature has now been embraced by the schools, by the Education Department, that we ought not to lose this momentum and this opportunity. And so if we can work out this trade of funds and make it happen without having an impact on the budget, I think it's a chance worth taking and I would like to see this veto overridden.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Well, Madam President, I promise I will not