

an amendment up that Senator Withem mentioned just a few minutes ago that would take the funding out of 1059 to provide funding for driver's education courses. Senator Bernard-Stevens did an excellent job of explaining the dilemmas the school faces today and, Senator Kristensen, you said that...Senator Kristensen, you did say that less than half of the students are taking driver's education now. I wonder if you could explain that.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Kristensen, would you respond, please.

SENATOR ROBAK: Than previously.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes. Senator Robak, I was looking at the testimony before the Transportation Committee and one of the people who testified certainly was one who talked about in 1985 the enrollment in driver's education had dropped from a level of 89 percent to 51 percent and the current time it has dropped a little since then as well. So you've got...let's just say for all fairness, you've got half the students who are not taking driver's education.

SENATOR ROBAK: And that's because Nebraska did away with the mandatory driver's education bill in school, driver's education courses in schools.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: They did away with the funding for...

SENATOR ROBAK: The funding, right.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...those programs.

SENATOR ROBAK: Yeah. So, in other words, these children can't pay for these themselves, they think it's too expensive and they will not pay for them. And what we're doing really now with this bill we're mandating to...we're doing what the federal government is mandating to us, it's mandating programs without funding and we are mandating to the citizens something without funding. We have no way of funding this. I agree with Senator Cudaback who said we teach golf and we do other things that we teach in schools and I think the schools should be responsible for funding driver's education. Also, in my district where I live right now, it is offered to only about 60 students in the summertime for only just a few weeks and you have to get your name on a waiting list and hurry and write up a...fill out a form to be on the waiting list and that's only about 60 of them