

Those are the types of questions that may be answered with this particular bill. If we have standards, if we're able to look at a school district's standardized testing and we see that there was an increase because of the additional funding that we provided to that school, or maybe a school district has a slightly different approach on how to educate our children, and they say, well this is a better way to educate our students, there really will not be an objective way to say yes, this system works better. I think that...I think we can all put the blame on different people for why this has happened. Actually, I blame people like Senator Hefner, and Senator Lamb and myself that simply say, well we're not going to put any more money into education. And we're simply going to say that this is not the way we should be doing educational systems, and we haven't really gotten as active into the educational legislation as we probably should have. I looked back on the ten years I've been in the Legislature, and I see that not much has changed. And maybe...maybe this will take a little while to get that study done, but it's a step in the right direction. And maybe, maybe by the time, ten years from now we can say, well, looking at how we educate our students, that this particular approach is better than another approach. Right now we really don't have an objective way to say what school district is doing a better job than another school district. It's all pretty much subjective. And, as a result, the taxpayers don't know what we're doing when we put all this money into our educational systems. So, for those reasons, I plan on supporting this bill. And it may be a rough road down the way when we get to budget time, and we're talking about putting in the money for this, but we have to have some sort of road map to educational quality, and I think this is the best way to do it that I've seen since I've been here. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Abboud. Does anyone else wish to speak to this amendment? Seeing none, do you have closing, Senator Withem?

SENATOR WITHEM: Move the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: We'll now vote on the Withem amendment. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted on the Withem amendment to LB 245? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the adoption of Senator Withem's amendment.