

hopefully in negotiations that take place on Select File we'll have, we'll find a source for that for funding the teachers and also the wards of the court money, so I would encourage everyone to oppose the kill motion. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Robinson. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Madam President, members of the body, I would stand in opposition to the motion to indefinitely postpone the bill for a couple of reasons and one of them is the underlying bill itself. And I think we have tended, other than Senator Robinson and Senator Ashford and then on occasion me, I think everybody else has forgotten what the underlying bill is here and I think what Senator Ashford has done with LB 1272 is to bring forward a serious policy discussion that probably deserves to stand on its own merits and succeed or fail on its own merits and now it's been kind of lost. But indefinitely postponing this bill will put the state budget package about \$1.7 million out of balance and we will then be forced with looking at other alternatives for cutting spending and I'm in favor of a number of the things that the Appropriations Committee has put in the budget that would probably be in danger, things like the early childhood education program, things like scholarship assistance for students attending private colleges and universities. So I would urge you, regardless of your views on the funding of the teacher-pay bill and whether it should come from the Highway Trust Fund or whether it should come from other sources, not to...not to kill this bill but to move it on to Select File. Secondly, if you're one like I've heard a lot of people who are opposed to funding the bill out of the Highway Trust Fund would like to see the teacher-pay bill funded from some other as yet unnamed source, that's not going to happen if you kill the bill. If you kill the bill, then the ward of the court issue and the feature pay issue are both essentially dead issues for this session. So you vote to not IPP or to not advance the bill today, or to advance the bill today should not necessarily be considered an endorsement of taking the funding from the Highway Trust Fund. Senator Schrock has already indicated that if the bill gets to Select File and nothing else is done, he, for one, will not be...not be supportive and I can certainly understand that position. But to allow the debate and the discussion to go forward both on the ward of the court issue and the teacher-salary issue, it will be necessary for this bill to remain in good shape and to be sitting on Select File. And I