

items. Most of the education reform that we have passed, we, the next year, turned around and either stripped the funding of it or not, kept our commitments to fund it. If we do not find this year the mechanism to fund the teacher pay bill, it will be another one of those things in the bone yard of education reform. We all go back...I don't know how many of you, I know I've done it, when we put together our campaign literature, what do we talk about? We talk about education, because we know that's a warm fuzzy and that the people in our district want good education. And if we say we're for good education, we get their votes. But it comes to doing it...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR WITHEM: ...question whether we actually get it done or not. I haven't seen any other plan out here to fund the teacher pay bill this year that has the support, that will pass. I don't know if 1272, in its current form, has the support to pass or not. But I think you need to be honest with your teachers if you're not going to vote for this. I think you need to tell them you voted against funding their program, because if this doesn't advance this year, it's probably not going to happen. I would urge you to pass the bill.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Crosby, you're next.

SENATOR CROSBY: I just...thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to say one more thing about 1272 itself, and I know Senator Ashford will close eventually, because there are a lot of things in 1272, aside from the teacher pay, that we are interested in, respite care. Just look at your budget on page 14 and 15 and you will see what I'm talking about. Look at this blue, turquoise, whatever it is, this copy, and you will see what I'm talking about that I think 1272 is in jeopardy. If I vote to move this bill, it will be because of those issues. Right now, I'm sort of in limbo on how we're going to fund the teachers. Chris Abboud would like to have some of my time. Go ahead, Chris.

SENATOR ABOUD: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Just follow up on some of the remarks that Senator Withem made. And part of the reason why I feel I support this bill is because of the changes that took place last year with Senator Withem. He's right on point when he talks about a change that we're seeing with this