

fit that description. This amendment is a substantive change in policy that is having its first public hearing, if you will, today at eleven fifty-six in front of the full body. It should not be here. It should be voted down. It should not be addressed today without any kind of input from the Education Committee, without any kind of input from the public, without any kind of input from the people who would be affected. And I don't know that we have any idea in terms of the large volume of information that we've got on the other parts of this amendment. It appears that the same amounts are coming on this one, that being absolutely none, on what the impact is going to be. Who does it affect? Who are these districts that are having rapid growth? Who are the winners and the losers under this system that we're going to put in place as an amendment to LB 719 in the eleventh hour, an issue that hasn't had any public debate? This is the kind of amendment that draws attention to it because it does come in under the cloak of other amendments and argued that it's a good policy change. It's not good enough to be introduced as a bill. It's not good enough to work its way through the priority system like all the other issues that are languishing on General File and that we're not going to get to. But yet we're asked to vote it up or down not knowing anything about it, not having any information about it, but just saying that it's good public policy. I would urge you to vote against this because there has been no explanation of it. There has been no rational, reasonable argument for it. There's been no data to defend it. There's been nothing offered that would allow for it to stand on its own and that's why it comes in in the form of an amendment on this proposal. I would urge you to vote against this amendment.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Withem.

**SENATOR WITHEM:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, to clear up some misunderstandings and I will attempt to be as painfully accurate with this as I can be, Senator Hall is correct when he says that this was not introduced as a bill. Therefore, he is correct in saying that this was not...the public did not have the notification that this was to be considered by the Legislature and did not have an opportunity to come before the Education Committee and give their rationale. He is inaccurate when he said it has not been a subject of the public hearing. When we held the public hearing on LB 1125, which is a...the Education Committee clean-up bill that was introduced this year, Senator Schrock did appear before the committee and indicate