

Ashford, I want to praise you for taking the step. You've worked hard on this. Senator Schellpeper, likewise, has been very cooperative in this. And so I would rise in support of suspending the rules to take up this amendment. I think it's valuable.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, as I've been listening to the discussion, I'm not perfectly clear but it seems to me that while the amendment for the A bill indicates General Fund, I thought I heard Senator Schellpeper indicate that to take the funds out of the computer system is merely going to make the ability to fund that program less...less likely and I had the impression from Senator Ashford that that's how it was intended to do...be done. But I'm of the opinion that, while this is obviously a good program, 50,000 is a drop in the bucket if you're talking about really a comprehensive program across the state. I can see how it would accomplish little and it's a case where I think I will vote against suspension of the rules because I just...I just don't see that the good benefits that are proposed in the legislation being able to be accomplished with what is proposed in terms of money.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Mr. Speaker, members, I have a few questions for Senator Ashford, if he would yield.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Yes, thank you.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Couple things, Senator Ashford. One, you're looking at grants going to nonprofit organizations.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Uh-huh.

SENATOR HILLMAN: There are several in place. Do you see this program as looking at the limited amount of funds and the sophistication of those that are already in place? Because there are some programs in place that do offer this type of education. But those would be the ones that would be applying and perhaps would just add on to a few dollars for their current program. Or do you look at this starting new programs and an expansion?