

be...get that money at some point. Those school districts will be able to plan for that. They can plan for that and they'll be able to adjust budgets. If we make the adjustment right now, one of my concerns are some of the school districts that will be losing immediately, even though it could be argued they would lose this money in the long term anyway, in the short term some of the districts are affected, like 14 percent. You know, they'll have a 14 percent drop. And in some school districts it may not be a lot of money but the percentages of that shift immediately is one that they may not be able to quickly adjust to and I think we need to at least discuss that to say is that...is...if we're talking a fairness issue, is it fair to put the pressure on them in the short term when they didn't expect it, when they have to scramble, so that others who would receive the money anyway can get their money faster? I mean that, to me, is...should be what the discussion is about and which is the fairest policy. And I don't disagree that in the long term the shift takes place. Where I disagree and I think we need to look at is the flexibility of those to be able to adjust themselves in the short term...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ..at this particular point, and I'm looking at school districts again and you look at the differences, there's a 9 percent loss, here's a 13.4 percent on the state aid side, a 14.6 percent hit, 17.6 percent hit, another 17.2, a 16.5 percent hit, an 18.2 percent hit, differences in the state aid that they receive. Those school districts are going to feel that immediately and I think they're going to have some difficulty adjusting to that and I question whether that is fair on the other side, particularly in the viewpoint that the school districts will be receiving that extra money for their growth at some point. That's the argument I wanted to bring forward. That's the policy decision the body needs to make and that's why the question was divided. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Schmit. I do not see Senator Schmit. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I'd like to address some of the things Senator Bernard-Stevens said about this particular amendment and I think a couple of things Senator Bernard-Stevens said are probably accurate, but misleading, as