

going to go back to the concept that we should just leave 1059 alone until we have all met and negotiated what differences we have and that involves taking the hold harmless amendment off of this bill so that we're back to a level playing field and I just want to make that clear that that's the path we're going down if hold harmless and this bill together don't represent a consensus of the Legislature and I think that's only fair. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I am going to speak briefly and then give some time to Senator Withem. I'd like to thank him for his explanation of the figures that you received on this sheet. I think that all of us, as he said, tend to look at these figures and take them as the gospel and Senator Withem has explained to us how these figures are only a point in time and how many things are going to affect these figures this year. I guess I would just like to make an appeal to you, particularly based on some of Senator Beutler's comments that, yes, there may have been some consensus about waiting; yes, there does need to be consideration of some other issues, but I do believe that, as Senator Schrock mentioned, this is a fairness issue. I just can't tell you how difficult it is for the Lincoln Public School systems to deal with not only last year's 700 new students but the year before that 700 new students and the year before that and projected again into the future. The growth isn't going to stop for some of these schools. And not only is the growth there, not only do you have the ordinary expenses associated with growth like this, but in the case of at least some communities you have other kinds of expenses because of language and cultural differences that the community has to help meet and absorb, and I know that's true in the Lincoln Public Schools. Our languages as a second...our classes for second language have increased dramatically over the last five or six years so we're not just talking about the ordinary student expenses, but on top of that some extraordinary expenses. I do think it's a fairness issue and I would like to plead for your...your vote for this amendment to push it forward and, with that, I would like to turn over my remaining time to Senator Withem.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: The only other point I wanted to make is I know some people here from the Lincoln Public Schools and the Omaha