

suffer and lose money and yet for those districts who have lost students and their need should not be as great, they're going to be held harmless, it doesn't make good public policy to do that and I think we need to seriously look at Senator Lindsay's amendment and what he's trying to do. He's saying for those districts who are experiencing losses outside of those that we exempted this morning, we ought to help them out and particularly when you look at the Kearney situation and the OPS situation, I think those are particularly important school districts to look at. Their student enrollment, their enrollments have increased. Their need by the formula should increase and yet, indeed, what is happening by this formula, by moving this up, we're hitting the Omaha Public Schools for \$303,000 and we're hitting the Kearney Public Schools for a relatively small amount of money, but it's significant public policy that we're doing here when we're saying to these school districts your need, obviously, had grown because we recognize that the need is based on enrollment and the Omaha Public Schools, their enrollment grew larger than any other district in the state, but because they're such a large district their factor didn't change and so, as a result, they're being hit by this and I think it's a legitimate point to be making and I would encourage the body to support Senator Lindsay. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Horgan. Senator Lamb. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: I was going to ask Senator Lindsay some questions, but he said he would defer them to other people and I'm fearful that he'd defer my question back to me, so I will not be asking him questions. I think this is a good amendment. It's probably something we should have done. If growth is a criteria for...rapid growth is a figure by which we should make an exception, we should not be, because of rewarding rapid growth, we should not be penalizing the school districts that do experience this rapid growth and that, in effect, is what we're doing with the amendment that was adopted this morning. Now I didn't realize this, but OPS meets this standard of 1 percent growth. They do meet the standard of 1 percent growth, but they receive less money because of it and I couldn't figure out how that happened and I think the way that happens is, because of this change in the formula, one thing that we are doing is taking a pot of money that otherwise would have been distributed to all school districts in the state and we're distributing that only to school districts that receive...that have this growth,