

September 28, 1992 LB 10

Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 2 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Debate has ceased. I will go to Senator Bohlke to close on your amendment. Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Mr. President, members, thank you all for your patience as we've addressed this problem. Senator Haberman spoke about the fact that we are breaking a contract. And you know so far, today, we have changed our contract with municipalities, and we are considering changing our contract with children who are wards of the state, pregnant women, school districts, and children with disabilities. So, Senator Haberman, I will be watching very close because I'm sure you will be voting against each one of these bills because that would in fact be breaking the contract with each of those individuals. And if you feel that strongly about that, I'm sure you'll be voting against each one of those. No one likes to break a contract. Commitment might be a better word. This was an attempt to compromise, and the idea being that it would still allow those people enrolled in the National Guard to qualify for 50 percent credit. Those who are currently enrolled, until next July, will continue to get their 75 percent tuition credit. The one other point that has not been made when Senator Schrock has pointed out that this would decrease the ability for them to recruit, the National Guard members qualify for a number of other areas of federal assistance besides the state assistance in tuition credit to help them meet their educational goals. This is not the only vehicle for them to qualify. Sometimes we have gotten off on a discussion of support of the National Guard. And I think that we all certainly support the guard and all that they do. It simply is, as I stated before, we have come here and realized, and we've all said we all must share in the pain, that it is not easy to cut back, but I still feel that 50 percent tax or 50 percent tuition credit is a big help to students wanting to receive their education, and it is a way of saying that we value those National Guard members. And as was stated before, it puts them on the same recruiting level as the Army Reserve, and also still allows them to qualify for that federal assistance, aside from what they get at the state level. It does not hurt the universities or the colleges and still allows them to do a good job of recruiting. Senator Schimek has asked me for some time that I had left. I will yield the rest of my time to her. But if you are looking for, I think, a