

has. You know, that is probably what we should be doing if we really believe in local control, funneling it into that and let the school districts make a decision, and then the money will go to the school districts that need it most too. But we are past that, I guess, we are going to do this bill. But I suggest to you that there won't be the care in using these funds that there are when the funds are your own. These are grant programs the way Senator Robinson has it. So what I'm suggesting is that we don't just throw all the money out at once and, poof, it is gone. Keep 8 to 9 million in weatherization because they are using it. If you want to do away with the rest of the entire program, come straightforward at it. Come straightforward at it, have a bill, get rid of the program. The Governor didn't have such a bill. With all of the agencies he sought to get rid of this year, this wasn't one of them. And let people, let the school people come forward and say why the weatherization is not a good one. I think we need to hear that, and to that end, I hope you will preserve the money that is currently being used for weatherization. Now the money that is not being used, again, it transfers over, flat out \$4 million. It stays over there. It is a loan program, so you have it in perpetuity, it is not just going to go out the window, and the school districts will be more careful about using the money because they know they have to pay it back. There is going to be a little more responsibility there. I think altogether, this is a better structure than what has been proposed to you. It does represent a compromise. I hope it meets with your approval. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Before beginning the debate on the Beutler amendment, I'd like to call the senators attention to the north balcony again. Senator Withem has 60 fourth graders as his guests. They are from Parkview Heights Elementary School in LaVista, Nebraska, with their teacher. Would you all stand and be recognized by your Legislature. Thank you for being here. For discussion on the Beutler amendment, Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. Though I haven't spoken on the issue yet, I guess I feel like a father listening to the discussion about a son or a daughter because the programs that we are talking about is a fourteen year-old program, not that old, fourteen year-old program that I was a cosponsor of with Senator DeCamp and Senator Fowler, back in 1981, and we fought pretty much the same battle because the schools wanted to have the money stay with