

Senator Beutler to settle the issue, I am just not going to be able to vote for it because I think, I really do believe this is a program that we ought to allow to ride off into the sunset and not reauthorize in any more.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Witek, on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR WITEK: Madam Chairman, members of the body, Senator Beutler, you talked about just putting the money into the 1059 fund, if you go into your bill book and look at LB 332, I put in a bill this year that would have done just that, would have taken the lottery money and put it directly into the 1059 fund because I believe what the lottery funds, what is happening with that fund is they are going over the heads of the local school boards and those boards trying to fit within a budget, and they are saying no to certain things, and then this goes directly over their head and it is like, okay, if Mom won't give us the money, we will go ask Dad kind of a deal going on here, and it is starting up seed money for programs. And then school districts are finishing off, or I assume that they will finish those programs or continue on paying for those programs using property tax dollars. So it hasn't worked out the way I believe most people who, and I still assert, Senator Bohlke, most people believe when we said education, they thought it meant we were going to help pay for the education that we were doing at that time and would relieve some of the pressure on property taxes. That bill was killed in the General Affairs Committee. Senator Robinson was one of the individuals who voted to kill it, and the NSEA were opponents of that, and so were the school administrators. They continue to protect this fund because it is additional funding, and they won't kill additional funding. They won't be reasonable about where they put it. They see it as, hey, it is extra money for us. We will protect us. It is money that is going to the schools above and beyond their regular budget, above and beyond their regular programs. So you are not going to get anywhere with individuals who are trying to protect this money, and I know that is what you are trying to do, and what I have tried to do with my bill. So when I see amendments like this, I know these individuals, even though they say that they appreciate the olive branch, but they, up front, never intended to use, and now I see it, that they never intended to even use the lottery money for the Internet. The bill was just let out so we have to come up with some kind of a funding source for getting that, and they still haven't answered