

It's a little below 3 percent currently so asking school districts and political subdivisions to spend one percent less in their growth rate was based on looking at the overall factors of involving CPR, Consumer Price Indexing. With that, I would also draw your attention, before I run out of time and I'll hit my button again, to three sheets I just handed out that look at why we're spending beyond...

SENATOR CROSBY: Time.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: ...what was originally included in 1059 in the lid. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator McKenzie. Senator Bernard-Stevens on the Withem amendment.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Yeah, thank you, Senator Crosby, members of the body, and, Senator McKenzie, I think you were talking about the CPI, not the CPR, on the Consumer Price Index, but that's neither here nor there. Senator McKenzie actually makes a very good case for the Withem amendment. She talks about those things that are outside the lid for school districts that political subdivisions don't necessarily have. ADA, that's a federal mandate, and I don't know how many people in the body would say that we'd like to have the education of our children, we'd like to have all of the dollars that go to the ADA taken out of the fund that we have to educate our children. And we said, no, we don't want that to happen because we place a very high value on education, so we exempted that from the lid, not because we were giving them a break but because we didn't want those dollars that were mandated to be taken away out of our programs for the gifted and for some of the other areas. Special education is exempt and a lot of that is because of federal and state law, but I don't think anyone in the body here would say, you know, on the schools, the tremendous growth on special education, we think they...that should be included in their spending so that the monies will be taken out of all the other programs to fund special ed. We didn't want to jeopardize the general education so we exempted that from the lid, and obviously counties don't have special education so that's not exempted from their lid, neither do cities. Court of Industrial Relations, we know that about 80 percent or a very high percentage of the cost of school districts are based by the CIR out...totally out of their control, and we made a policy decision saying, look, since it's out of their control do we