

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Closing is waived. The question before you is the adoption of the Wesely amendment to LB 392. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Please record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the adoption of Senator Wesely's amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Wesely amendment is adopted. Anything further?

CLERK: Yes, ma'am. Madam President, Senator Witek would move to amend the bill. AM2067, Senator.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Witek to open on her amendment.

SENATOR WITEK: Good morning, Madam Chairman, members of the Legislature. What my amendment would do, it's on page 2077 of the Journal and I'm also handing out a two-page handout to everyone and what this handout explains is the amendment and the amendment is to eliminate 435,000 dollars from early childhood education pilot projects from the main line budget bill and then the next portion of the handout shows where on page 57 of your blue copy of your budget that this, under the State Department of Education, appropriation is, and it explains a bill that was in the Education Committee this year, LB 621, which would have authorized continued pilot projects and funding and was killed in the Education Committee and also I have attached the fiscal note from 621, which is the language, and if you look on the bottom of the fiscal note it explains the 621 and it explains the impact to the state and possible legislative appropriations. And what the Legislature has appropriated, although this bill was not passed and there is no statutory language to continue this funding, it has been carried on in the budget bill itself and this explains that there is 435,000 dollars a year for these projects. The second page of the handout is the statutory language that was passed in 1990 and at that time what it did was initiate a pilot project that was continued... to continue for three years and by July 1st the department was to conduct an overall evaluation of the success or failure of the project and a report was supposed to have been issued to the State Board of Education and the Legislature by November 30th of this year. We have not, as far as I know, received a report on that. This bill was discussed last year. I don't know if anyone will remember it, but we discussed a bill that was on Consent