

Calendar and that I had asked to have removed from Consent Calendar for this project. I guess I have several concerns on this. I... I don't understand why the state needs to be involved with special funding for a very few. What it is is preschool programs. In my area, we spend 2 million dollars out of our... our education budget that is then factored into all of our other programs, but 2 million dollars specifically on early childhood in the Millard schools from our property tax money so that's paid for by the people in Millard for our Millard preschool pilot projects. We also have individuals like myself and many of them who have placed our children in private preschools and pay for that out of our own funds. This monies went to fund four preschools across the state and do pilot programs at that time. There was some suggestion that they would change some of the funding formula. I believe that's still the case that maybe you could apply for it and it would be some kind of a 50/50 match. Regardless, it would fund a very few preschools for what I can see kind of single them out special for state funding. And I, first of all, don't agree with the policy of state funding for preschools. I think that's something that the area should take up either themselves or through the private sector. I think we compete with the private sector when we do something like this needlessly and raise costs needlessly in the private sector when... when you have preschools that are running with state funds, and I would like you to consider at this time eliminating this money. I guess I want to see if we're going to cut any funding at all from the budget this year. It doesn't appear so. So this is an area where I think you could at least give some consideration to cutting 435,000 dollars a year that has no support in statute at this time. The bill was killed in the Education Committee and the only reason that the funding continues is because it's rolled into the appropriations bill and that's again what's happening this year. It's been rolled into the appropriations bill and I would hope that you would consider adopting this amendment and saving the state taxpayers a million dollars, almost nearly a million dollars in the next two years. At least it's an area where you can consider possibly cutting some of the spending because some time in the next couple weeks we've got to start somewhere with some of these cuts. And I know people are reluctant to do cuts, but this is one area where I hope they'll consider it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Crosby.