

sure that they're not doing anything they shouldn't. So from all of those points, from all of those points we came to the early childhood education bill. I... I... Senator Withem isn't here. I think he was Chairman of the Education...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR CROSBY: ..at the time and I was on the Education Committee and several of us worked very hard to get it in place so I think we do need to continue with the Department of Education working across the state. The example set, I guess, by the early childhood education program has helped any number of private schools and other private entities, YWCA has one here at 14th and N and it's just wonderful and a lot of us support that with private money. So I just think I would urge you to reject this amendment. If you want some kind of evaluation, ask the Performance Evaluation Committee to look at it or some... or Education Committee, but I just think taking the money away isn't the answer. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Maurstad announces that the following guests are visiting the Legislature. There are 43 fourth graders here from Paddock Lane Elementary in Beatrice, Nebraska, and their sponsors. Will you all stand and be recognized, please. Guests of this Legis... of the Legislature this morning are also Robin Read, executive director of the National Order of Women Legislators and president of the National Foundation for Women Legislators. Robin is visiting from Washington, D.C. She will be the guest speaker at a luncheon at noon today at the Governor's mansion honoring 100 years of women in legislators. Also visiting is Shirley Marsh, a State Senator from 1977, and the 1977-78 president of the National Foundation of Women Legislators and a past senator of the Nebraska Legislature. I also should tell you that the flowers that each woman senator is wearing today is in commemoration of 100 years of women in the... in Legislature. Will Robin Read and Shirley Marsh please stand and be recognized, please. Welcome, Robin, and welcome back, Shirley. Senator Brown, your light is next.

SENATOR BROWN: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I would strongly urge you to not accept this amendment. I would like to respond a little bit to some aspects about the early childhood pilot projects and then explain what the situation is now because it has changed a little bit. Evaluation has been