

type of things that they need, how is it going to help to have that particular kid mandatorily out of school for three semesters? It makes no sense. The laws that we have on the books are very tough on the issue, but they also make sense in regards to the crime and for alternate education in other areas. What I propose that we do is not suspend the rules, and at some point have a resolution by the body asking the Attorney General, or, actually, it is going to be an idea that Senator Withem had, so I don't want to take credit for that, but what we need to do...

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...is to have clarification from the top, and right now in conversation with people at the top, their only answer to Nebraska is we don't know what it means. We don't know if the dollars are going to be gone. We don't know when the dollars actually are going to be out there. We don't know if they are even...the Title I funds are even going to be cut by the new Republican budget cutting process that is cutting the budget in a major fashion by year 2002, and, honest, we have no idea, they are telling us, what is going to happen. You don't pass a law that doesn't make sense because the government says they may do something when, in fact, they have no idea what it is or when they are going to do it. Now is not the time to do that. So we need not suspend the rules. We need not panic in this situation. There are remedies. There are things we can do, and next session, if we need to, we can then address the issue. But to do it in this fashion and put it on the statutes in this manner is not good education policy.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Bohlke, your light is next.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Mr. President, members, you may recall that we have had some of this debate before when we raised the issue. Senator Bernard-Stevens said about the same things, and I will probably say about the same things, and it just simply comes down to a choice. Are you willing to roll the dice and lose \$36.9 million or not? Since the last time that we debated the issue, I knew that Polly Feis was going to be traveling back to Washington and have a chance to talk to people back there about the reality as if they were going to go ahead and pursue this. She returned last...this week and said in those discussions she found out that they have only granted one waiver