

to a state, that was Kentucky, and that is because they aren't in session, that they plan to vigorously...have vigorous support for this and I believe that they will. And as I've said before, what concerns me the most on educational policy certainly is the \$29 million for Chapter I. As you know, those are programs in schools in high poverty areas. Those are programs that have...we have been able to prove are extremely successful in our schools. In all the discussions in Washington over what they may or may not be cutting and changing, Chapter I has yet...has not had any discussion as being one of those possible cuts. I think people recognize it as one of the better programs we have in our schools, and certainly is a way of preventing children from actually going into special education programs. Originally, that was the intent to give that assistance to bring them up to grade level so that they would start to be able to work at that grade level and be successful and was almost like a screening so that they would not be going into the very high-cost special ed. And so for a whole bunch of reasons, but most importantly the fact of the \$29 million for Chapter I funds, I ask you to support this motion to suspend the rules. I'm just not willing to tell the federal government to take a hike on this. I think that it is very important for our schools, it is very important for the quality of education that we deliver to our students, and especially to our students in the high poverty areas.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Chambers, followed by Senators Beutler, Crosby, Withem, Bernard-Stevens, and Pirsch. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I've made it clear from the last time that this effort was made that I would oppose it, whenever it came up in whatever guise. Senator Bohlke handed around a sheet that contains, well, several sheets containing a number of questions and answers about this Gun-Free School Act, and on page 3, at the top, is question 6. "May a state request a waiver of the requirements of the Gun-Free Schools Act? Answer. Yes. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act authorizes the Secretary to waive the requirements of the Gun-Free Schools Act if that action will increase the quality of instruction for students or will improve the academic performance of students. However, it is not anticipated that the requirements of the Gun-Free Schools Act will be waived except in unusual circumstances." It will be unusual if the Legislature chooses not to do anything, and if