

SENATOR CROSBY: I agree. Well, I am going to support the rule suspension, and I guess I'm a coward, Senator Chambers, I'm going to support this. I understand while we are backed into a corner and none of us like it, none of us likes it, is that right? I don't know. Anyway, I will go along with you and hope that it works out the way it is supposed to on the funding. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Withem, your light is next.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes, thank you, Senator Hall. Let me explain my opposition. Maybe I didn't do a very good job, and I know both of the introducers of the amendment up there are upset with me for not supporting the rule suspension at this point. Again, I made my...I am...I am opposed to the federal government doing this. I do not think it is the emergency situation that some of the other people that have spoken on this appear to think that it is. Let me explain that a second, if I can. My office did, in fact, visit with the individual that Polly Feis visited with also. I think...and I don't know what happened. I know, you know, Polly is one of the better administrators in the Department of Education, and is a very conscientious, capable individual, and very much wants to make sure that all of these programs work, and that our relations with the various branches of government work properly, and very properly, she went back to try to find out as much as she could. Somehow that information got reported in the newspaper as a done deal, as a fiat from the federal government. Our understanding is that there has been this communication with an individual, very nice conscientious federal government official, who is in a midlevel, bureaucratic sort of position that's been given the responsibility of making some sense out of what probably is the equivalent of a U.S. Congress Select File amendment written on a pad by Senator Chambers. You know that sort of thing that would get thrown up there and then people years later try to make sense of what is his handwriting, and that's what this person is doing. At this point, first of all, they don't know how many states have complied and how many states haven't. They have no knowledge of that. True, they have given one waiver but they haven't give...there is no process in line for turning states down, for accepting states, for indicating what is acceptable and what isn't. This individual has looked at our law and has given a personal opinion based on, you know, some degree of expertise, I