

our vision,...

SENATOR HALL: Time.

SPEAKER WITHEM: ...or Senator Cham...or Cros...I will be speaking again.

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

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Give my time to Senator Withem.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Withem, you're given Senator Bernard-Stevens...

SPEAKER WITHEM: And, Senator Bernard-Stevens, I will yield my time to you that I punched so we have it equitable. Not this time, but the additional time. Last year, last year in the midst of all of these other states that were just finding a way in which they could be tougher on kids and show how tough they were on crime, we in the Education Committee, and this was when I was Chair, and Senator Bohlke was the Vice Chair of the committee, spent a lot of time with school officials, and we fashioned a school discipline statute that...that drew a very narrow line down the middle, where we were not going to do like some states where the goal was simply to kick kids out on the street, and that's why Senator Crosby's remarks made a lot of sense to me. We didn't want to just kick kids out, because what happens when you kick kids out of school? You kick kids out of school, they become the problems we are legislating LB 371 for, the juvenile justice bill. They become kids out on the street that become else's problem. We weren't going to do that. We were going to be tougher, because we knew the school environment needed to be tougher. My wife teaches school. She comes home with horror stories of what goes on in even a good suburban school like the one where she teaches. A good suburban school still has problems. We knew those school officials needed to have a greater clout. So we passed a bill that allowed for a full year's suspension, expulsion. We allowed for that expulsion if it took place during the latter part of a semester to be for the next semester, or for the next year, but we also said if we are going to do that, we are going to want provisions where these kids aren't just dumped out onto the streets. We enacted legislation that talked about, and I can't find it here, but it's in the statute, 79-4179.01, where we spelled out what