

that it was after consulting with the department attorney that she said...because it is not in law yet, it is not...that they cannot go on record, but every indication is that they are going to push for compliance. And I hate to even mention this to confuse people because there has been a lot of confusion about gun-free zone, but when the decision came out from the Supreme Court on the gun-free zones, that is what then heightened the determination to do something in this area. And, certainly, that's when officials of the Department of Education and President Clinton have said that they are going to enforce this vigorously. As I said before, when people in Washington are a little bit...no one else is fighting this in other states. Now we can...oftentimes we are unique, but the attitude is, what is...what is...why is it such a major issue in Nebraska, and especially with firearms. It is not, it is separate from forks. It's separate from penknives. Here we are discussing firearms, and bringing a firearm onto school property. I think that we need to suspend the rules to get at the issue, and I, you know, I would hope that you would support that and realize that I think the risk is too great, and the amount of money is too large, and, certainly, the number of students who could be negatively impacted is also too great from not dealing with this...

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SENATOR BOHLKE: ...and, certainly, I felt an obligation, as Chair of the Education Committee, to come forward with this issue. I would think that there could be nothing worse than for us to find out that, indeed, they are serious, indeed, they do plan to pursue this vigorously, and, indeed, we would lose our funding for, especially for Chapter I programs. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Fisher, your light is next.

SENATOR FISHER: Mr. President and members, I rise in support of this rules...to suspend the rules and to vote on it. I think the amendment is good. I think Senator Bohlke answered one of the questions I had is that other states aren't fighting it, and they don't intend to fight it, and I think it is kind of like the system that I think who has the football sets the rules, and right now the federal government has that football. They...we have to comply. I see we are not giving up anything. I know we can argue about the two semesters versus one year but I think