

for purposes of violence. He found it, he put it in his school, some stuff, he brought it to school. In this particular Arkansas school, this kid was suspended for a week, until the end of the school year. If this were in place, this student would be suspended for at least two semesters, maybe a total of three, I'm not sure, depending upon when the time would have taken place, had this been in the Omaha Public School System where they allow zero tolerance. That's the sort of extreme circumstance I would be opposing by opposing this particular statute.

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

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Hall, members of the Legislature, I would like to... certainly would like to encourage Senator Withem and others who are interested in this area to go ahead and let's try to make something out of this. If we do nothing at all and there is no bill whatsoever then certainly the things that Senator Withem and Senator Bernard-Stevens are hoping for, that is some additional statutory language apparently with regard to alternative schools or some additional statutory language with regard to the degree of violence, those things aren't going to happen this year, those things aren't going to happen because there is no other bill. And that means that for all of the predominance of cases we're still going to have the law in place, we're still going to have our old law in place. Our old law is still going to say you can expel students, our old law is still going to refer to all kinds of dangerous weapons and the predominance of cases that are going to arise will still be addressed in the old way without any opportunity for Senator Withem or Senator Bernard-Stevens or Senator Chambers to address what they think is wrong with the system. So if they're going to do any good, and if we're going to comply with the federal law, why not take care of the matter? Why not suspend the rules and not spend so much time arguing about procedure but get right to the matter and let's hear the amendments and let's make some decisions on what would be good policy in this area. I think that's a more constructive approach than simply killing everything because it's not exactly the way you want it, in which case you get nothing at all with regard to the solution of the problems that you think should be identified. The people that want to clear the situation with the guns and the federal government get nothing, those who want the alternative school language strengthened get nothing, those who want the