

you're out. But all of them have the same basic premise, that when we have a problem we need to act and act swiftly and act punitively, that we need to punish people when they do wrong, whether it be taking them out of the school system for a year, whether they get kicked off of welfare after two years, whether they get thrown in jail for the rest of time if they commit three crimes. But I think Senator Withem has been making the argument and it's one that appeals to me that there's more at stake here, that more needs to be discussed and considered in trying to deal with the problem and resolve it, and that applies to these other issues as well. There's a different philosophy here. Some hold the philosophy that simply having some negative consequences will be enough to get people to act in the positive way. We know better than that. That five-year-old spending a year out of school, I'm not sure is going to know quite what happened and how to respond to it. People don't always think and respond rationally to issues. Sometimes more needs to be done. Obviously, if tough crimes and penalties were all that it would take to make people do the right thing, we wouldn't have the prisons filled and all the crime that we have right now because we definitely have consequences to breaking the law. But still it seems to me that something more is at stake here. And I'm not sure that all the programs we've talked about and other things are the answer either. But fundamentally we don't seem to be succeeding in stemming the tide of crime and student discipline problems. There is a more fundamental issue at stake, I think that's what Senator Withem is trying to drive at. I also want to note, I think Senator Withem also raised this point, is we seem to, this whole afternoon, be responding to federal dictates, whether it be the interstate banking bill, which we've wiped out our process to review interstate banking intervention into our state, or whether it be Senator Brashear's proposal dealing with the federal U.S. Supreme Court decision on not having to be identified in campaign literature,...

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...whether it be the Medicaid issue, dealing with the waiver not being able to be approved on time by the federal government, or whether it be this issue where a federal law has been sent down to us from on high and threatened millions of dollars in funding. And it's a very frustrating afternoon, I know for all of us, not just myself, as we have to deal with these problems. But I think if we are going to deal with them, rather than just respond to the immediate federal