

SENATOR HALL: Senator Bernard-Stevens, you have approximately three minutes left.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Bohlke, and I appreciate Senator Bohlke agreeing to the Withem amendment and I hope that this bracket motion until, I guess, technically tomorrow will be agreed to. And I, too, want to work as closely as I can with the Chair of the Education Committee and others so that we can get the best policy forward. I do want to mention one thing though about our discussion about alternative education. One of the things that would develop when and if we would get to a discussion on that is the cost, because in LB 613, LB 613, we have again lowered the percentages of the public schools, what they can do within the budgetary process of their budget process. And we would then, under this particular bill, cause...yeah, I was just trying to think that through in my mind. On the alternative education, we would probably have to fund it ourselves, or tell the school districts that they would need to come up with some type of process. Some of them may come up with a work program, as Senator Bohlke talked about, others may actually say, no, we'd like to have an education process, but none of them would have any dollars to do it. And we would dump it then on them to find the dollars within their budget, or we would have to come up with the monies. And I know already, just looking at the sheet, that would cause us some difficulty. So, I mean, there are some difficulties than just saying we can do it with alternative education. There's certainly going to be some financial costs of that as well. I would also like to say that, look, we're in the last eight days of the session, we are not necessarily...we have not necessarily been told, we have been given hints and suggestions that we might not be in compliance. My feeling is, and again I could be wrong and certainly...

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...certainly have been in the past, but I've been right a lot of times as well, that if the Nebraska State Legislature was not in session and it was determined that we were out of compliance, I really believe that if the Withem amendment were agreed to that simply says, look, we believe we are in compliance, we want to be in compliance but we think this is, if we were then told after all of that we are not in compliance, we would be able to apply for the waiver. And I