

that. I'm sorry, I wish I could because I know the results after this what will happen, and I regret that. I regret that, but I don't think I have any choice.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: I was hoping there'd be a couple more lights on between Senator Bernard-Stevens and myself. Senator Bernard-Stevens, this is almost like the debate that I read about in the paper over the school lunch program at the federal level and your comments are equally as ludicrous. I have looked this over. I have followed this. I had considered this bill as my priority bill. It's...we spent \$112 million last year in this area. We are going to spend \$122 million, or up to \$122 million. That is not a decrease. That is not a sledgehammer. That is not anything else that you said. That is an increase of \$10 million for those programs. Oh, maybe even more than that. Oh, 114 to 122, I want to be correct, okay. It is still an increase. It's not a sledgehammer. We're not hurting anybody. We're not capping. We're not cutting. Again, it's all in the rhetoric. I understand that. The people on this floor from the vote on the last amendment understand that. The public, if they followed any of this, will more than likely understand it, depending on what's in the press. We are not hurting anyone at this time other than those individuals who are deliberately scaring people by telling them that we're trying to cut back in these areas. That's not what's going on here. You have people who are concerned about the growth in these areas. The growth in this area has been twice that of the growth in any other education area. We're trying to find out what is causing that growth. That's all we want, is answers. We want the answers to what's causing that growth and we've put together a task force and we're giving them \$30,000 to find out what's causing that growth. That's all we're doing this year. Because we can come back next January, in six months, you can come back in six months, in January, and do whatever you want in this area. Our Appropriations Committee can get back together and do whatever they see that needs to be done in this area. We're just trying to get some answers so that we can consider what needs to be done in the special education area, if anything. Maybe we'll find out that these costs are all justified. Maybe we'll find out that that growth is justified and we'll just have to find ways to fund it. That could be what we find out, but we need to put this together to at least answer some of those