

questions because all we see now is numbers on a paper and those numbers tell us that this area is growing at the rate of 12 percent a year and right now that's a lot of money and we don't have that kind of money and that kind of growth in most of the incomes in the State of Nebraska from the taxpayers who are paying these bills. It's not that we want to cut any programs that are necessary. We don't want to hurt any children that are in these programs. We don't want to hurt any families that are in these programs. We want them to have the best education that they can possibly get here in the State of Nebraska and we want to help with that, but we do want to find out what the growth areas are. If it's something that we can do something about, we'll do it. If it's something we can't do something about and we just have to sustain it, we will find a way to sustain it. There is no need to scare people, including Senators on this floor, for the lobby to do that, to scare Senators on the floor and superintendents and everybody else involved that are getting phone calls and letters and pictures of their children. That's the most cruel thing is scaring these families out there of these children and...and making them think that we are going to take away their children's opportunity for an education. That's wrong. That's just simply wrong and it shouldn't be done, in my opinion, and I'm sorry that it is being done because all myself and Senator Bromm, Senator McKenzie, Senator Bohlke and others are trying to do is get some answers, and look how difficult it is. We haven't cut a dime. It's increasing.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: It's increasing in the next budget. If you continue to make people think that we're cutting then you know that that's wrong, because you can come back in January and do whatever you want in these areas, so please just allow the majority on this floor who would like to get some answers to the questions that we have on what is causing the growth and if we can do anything about it. And I don't see any reason to get this emotional or this wrapped up in this issue at this point because we haven't done any cutting or any changing at all to these programs right now and this is premature, if it's ever necessary, which I don't think it is, and I would hope that we could get to the votes on this amendment before our four hours are up and Senator Withem will more than likely pull this bill and that happens at 10:30 tonight and I would like to see this bill go through this year, so I would hope that we do this in a timely fashion without the dramatics. Thank you.