

My concern is in this area it seems like the Legislature's able to say, yeah, we can squeeze more than we can in other areas. Let me draw an analogy. Senator Hall's not here but he might appreciate this one because he offered an amendment the other day dealing with the roads fund. My guess is if what the department...what the Legislature was doing was trying to bring about more accountability and less increases in road construction and we had the philosophy that we can continue to build the same miles of road each year if we just quit excesses of wide shoulders and cement so many inches deep and the amount of rebar and all of those other things, the Legislature wouldn't stand for that. You wouldn't trust that. But we're dealing with kids who are special needs...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SPEAKER WITHEM: ..kids and we're saying, yeah, we believe we can squeeze them a little more than we could otherwise and that's what's beginning to bother me. I really don't think this is about what can we do to meet the needs of special ed kids at a more reasonable rate. I'm afraid what the Bromm-Bohlke amendment is about is, in fact, what Senator Bernard-Stevens said it's about and that is where can we find money to fund other programs, and you're finding it on the backs of some of the more unfortunate individuals. And, yeah, we are talking about cuts. We're talking about if you have a program that's grown at 12 percent, you need to scale it back, but keep in mind that scaling back means that you're not funding it at the same level you would have otherwise have funded it and that is, in fact, a cut. I'm sorry, it's not...it's not continuation budget. You're...you're...you're cutting. I'm willing to cut. I'm willing to cut the way the original McKenzie, Bernard-Stevens...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SPEAKER WITHEM: ..amendment. I'm not so sure I'm willing to cut as deep as this one cuts.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, Senator Bernard-Stevens, I'd like to ask you a question.