

to me. And I will admit that it's a confusing issue and it's hard to know and I should be the perfect example because I changed my mind and I believe you have the right to change yours. I just wanted, I guess, some explanation, if you would, and I know but I would like you to share that with some of the body if you would take a couple minutes to explain what issues might have changed your mind. Can I give you two minutes and ask for one minute at the end just to respond?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Sure. I appreciate that. I don't particularly think any Senator needs to explain their vote, but I would be glad to. When the bill was in committee I was opposed, as anybody could read the transcript. In fact, our Lieutenant Governor was there at the time and...and I grilled her quite extensively, but very politely, I might add, to what your staff said, gee, you got a tough grilling, and she said, no, that wasn't bad at all. So I...the bill itself I was opposed to, but because I went to Santa Fe and because, which was right after the Micron debate, and because I had the concept of where we needed to be on capping special ed I had to vote to get the bill out of committee so we could offer the amendment to do so. At that point, I was working with both you, Senator Bohlke and others trying to draft an amendment that would do the concepts that I had and others had in mind on the block grants, but to keep the bill alive to get to that point where we had the amendments, Senator McKenzie, you'll remember, we needed to advance the bill. So it was a catch 22. By advancing, voting to advance the bill, I was putting the bill in a position that we could make the policy that I believed we needed to do. In retrospect, I should have never let the bill out of committee and we should have no...no savings whatsoever on the sheet because the money has gotten in the way of the policy. But that's why I voted the bill. I've always had this idea in mind which was why I was with you in developing the plan and so on. So I give you the rest of your time back.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator McKenzie.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Thank you. I just wanted to have that little dialogue and allow that opportunity for discussion because we did discuss the concern about putting a flat year in after General File and that's why we introduced the amendment together. It is a difficult issue and we go back and forth, but I will tell you if you look at the special education worksheets that people hand out, you will see that schools project what