

SENATOR PIRSCH: Do you believe that...that if a child is expelled from school that it is good policy to just allow that child to stay at home?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Well, Senator, if I understand the policy that is currently in place and, in fact, what I understand is to be encouraged or mandated by the amendment, that is what would happen to many of the students in my district, because if they were expelled, they could be placed in a work program on their family ranch, on their family farm, in their family business, and they would literally stay at home.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Now in the old language of the discipline code, we have said already that the school district that has expelled the student may suspend the enforcement of such expulsion and, as a condition of such suspended action, assign the student to a school, class, or alternative educational program, and alternative educational is the new language, which the school district deems appropriate for the rehabilitation of the student. Now that's old language, and then old language is, any two or more school boards may join together in providing such schools, classes, or programs. Any district may by agreement with another district send its suspended or expelled students to any school, class, or program already in operation by such other...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR PIRSCH: I guess I am thinking that this is not much of a dramatic change in what perhaps the school districts may have and, of course, when we are talking about the bringing the guns to school, I doubt that many school districts have had to handle a student that has done that within the last year. And, again, instead of...instead of abandoning or rejecting a student who is acting up or at risk, I think it's only reasonable, and I think probably school districts have already some kind of a...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR PIRSCH: ...policy in place.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I