

am going to speak briefly, just to begin to explain a little bit I guess. I am going to support Senator Wickersham's amendment, and I don't suspect I have any area that is affected in any sense adversely. I'd be more comfortable if it applied to Class V, IV, and III schools instead of IIs, but conceptually I couldn't agree more with what is talked about here but I have reservations that these always come up on these kind of bills. I have a suspicion that alternative schools, while I think I know what they are, but I suspect that when it becomes, especially with rules and regs, a very defined type of activity or program, that I have a suspicion that some parts of the state may have great difficulty. Not to say that it is not desirable, I am sure it is. I would not disagree that this is just some slight expansion to what is already in the statutes, you could argue that, at least, but I have reservations, again, that the word alternative school will become a much more substantive issue in time, perhaps appropriately, but I would be reluctant to vote for it at this time and, in fact, will not. And it is the kind of thing I've done frequently, when these kind of issues come up. Even though I am totally unaffected as far as the area I represent, I have always had a concern for some of those smaller institutions just probably couldn't meet with that kind of a mandate.

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

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Madam President. I wonder if Senator Withem would yield to a question or two please.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Withem.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes.

SENATOR BROMM: Senator Withem, because...because of the timing of this amendment and the shortness of time with which some of us have had to deal with it, I've made an effort to try to find out, at least in my district, whether the schools were aware of this proposal, and how they felt about it because I felt that was only fair to them, and one of the questions after trying to make some phone calls and trying to find out how many districts already have something available is that nobody seems to know how many schools already have an alternative school arrangement available. Do you have any information on that?

SPEAKER WITHEM: No, no, I don't, and to be totally honest,