

Senator Bromm, I don't think it is very many. I think this is something that the schools...I don't think I could stand here in good conscience and say, oh, it is something that they are already doing. I don't think that they are. I know in the Omaha Public School system they are looking at establishing alternatives for expelled students. They now have alternatives for kids having problems. I've taken too much of your time, I will quit now, but...

SENATOR BROMM: No, I am interested in that information. Is there any data, at this point, as to what kind of cost we are looking at, and that's extremely relevant to my districts? Is there any information on what this might cost here, or what it is costing in other states, or anything like that?

SPEAKER WITHEM: There is, we're talking about alternative education for expelled students, my guess is if you go around the state you will find outside of Omaha Public Schools, you will find a very, very small number of expelled students. That data might be available from the Department of Ed. I will check and see if I can get it.

SENATOR BROMM: Okay. If you do, would you please let me know.

SPEAKER WITHEM: I certainly will.

SENATOR BROMM: I think we asked them and I don't think they knew, but you might be able to get something. Thank you for that information. Let me relate to you that my primary concerns with this are not with the idea or with the concept that schools should do this; if they are going to expel students for a long period of time, I think they should. My problem and reservations come with doing it again without a great deal of advance study or communication or dialogue with the schools that are going to be required to implement this. I think it is going to, once again, put us in the position of whether or not you can argue that this gives them a flexible way to do something. It is going to be viewed as a mandate in a year when we are trying to screw the lid down tighter, and making sweeping changes in certain other areas that we talked about a couple of days ago like special ed. We are saying, we are saying this is another thing you are going to have to do, and we decided that you're going to have to do it, and it's contradictory. I share the...it puts an ill taste in my mouth that the federal government says you've got to have this particular provision in