

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. You gave me over half your time. Thank you. Madam President and members of the body, I rise in opposition to the Wickersham amendment, and am not going to repeat too much, I hope, of what others have said because I do think that it has been expressed very well that this is not going to be a really tough burden on the schools. What I have been doing is trying to find out from the Omaha and Lincoln School District how many students were actually expelled for carrying guns this past year in each of those school districts to give us some idea, and Lincoln, unfortunately, does not keep it by weapons, so I don't have any figures for the Lincoln School District, but the Omaha School District has expelled 10 students this entire year to date, starting back in September, and eight of those for guns and two for BB guns. So if you think about the big picture and the number of students in the Omaha Public School system, that's not very many students. In addition, I think Senator Bohlke indicated to me in a private conversation that we are talking about \$8 million, or how much affecting the Omaha Public School system.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Douglas County would be \$8,000,378.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Okay, thank you, so you can see that it's probably really worth it to the Omaha Public School system to have this bill in place. The only other thing I would like to say is that we have to remember that it is the state's responsibility to educate the students and we do ask that they attend school until they are 16 years of age. It's more difficult, of course, when they do something like this, but I do still believe it is our responsibility to see that they are educated. And I think Senator Bohlke and others have explained the different kinds of educational...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...experiences that they could receive. They don't have to be strictly classroom experiences, and I think it makes it doable for every school district, and, hopefully, as the more this is in place, the fewer students we will have who are actually being expelled for carrying guns to school. With that, I would simply ask that you not vote in support of the Wickersham amendment.