

under the south balcony. Will you all stand and be recognized, please. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Coordsen... Excuse me, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Withem would move to amend the Bohlke amendment. (Withem amendment, FA310, appears on pages 2576-77 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Withem to open on his amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: First of all, I guess there's some sort of need to respond to Senator Bromm's comments regarding him feeling that he's being somehow threatened. You know, I don't care, Senator Bromm, if you want to vote no, vote no. I mean everybody votes as they want. I think I indicated the other night I have serious objections to the concept of the federal government ramming stuff down our throats, that was the basis of my objections to the bill the other night. People have come to me and they've said that they think it's very important to pass the bill and they'd like to work something out. I indicated that if we close this loophole, and we're going to do something with kids instead of just kick them out on the streets, then I could swallow being...having a gun held to my head, a little mixed metaphor there, I guess I'm not swallowing a gun necessarily, Senator Chambers. But you know that's where we are. And I think I've been fairly up front. I'll support the bill if...even though I don't like it, I'm willing to support it if there's something in it that I do like. I don't know what kind of naive school of politics people are coming from where they see a problem with an individual senator basing their votes on what is contained within an amendment. I'll vote yes on this in its totality, I'll vote no on it if it's broken out. That's the system, and if you don't like that system, I don't know how you correct that system, other than tell me that I can't vote my conscience on a measure. And Senator Bromm is not going to do that to me, regardless of how much of a snit he may get into over things. The amendment, what we have before us, quite frankly, is the first portion of the amendment I had up before, which Senator Wickersham indicated does, in fact, solve a concern that he had. They are working on the other con...one of the other concerns that he had, does not contain that language. Simply this amendment strikes, on page 1, lines 21 through 23, which dictates the cost per pupil taking place, it will put this in the hands of the Department of Ed for rules and...rule and