

regulation authority. I would urge your adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Coordsen, to speak to the Withem amendment.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. Although I hadn't identified this portion of the Bohlke amendment as being a problem, I do recognize the situation that might exist if it became part of law and do support the Withem amendment. More importantly, my concerns are in the area that Senator Withem indicated that they're still working on, and that would be, I assume to be the next amendment up, which would be referencing page 2, line 10 of the "shall". In looking at the language, not only the new language or the stricken language, but the total language of the section of statute that's being amended, we find that the word "may suspend", may as a condition, may join together, may by adjournment, may be assigned, may be offered, may include, when referencing alternatives or conditions resulting from an expulsion, for example a school district may in fact suspend the enforcement of an expulsion if they so desire. And if they don't so desire, they may modify it by a variety of things. Now as other people on the floor have said, there are many school districts in the state who already have, under the may clauses, ongoing process in order to accomplish the only "shall" that I see in the original language is that the program shall include an individualized learning program to enable a student to continue academic work for credit toward graduation while they are in the period of expulsion and in an alternate program. I don't find anything wrong with the new language on page 2 other than, other than the "shall". And it appears to me that this has the potential of creating some significant problems for schools who already have successful programs in place, require the creation of programs which always have a cost, even though they're not implemented, there is a cost to developing a program for those school districts that have decided, should the need arise, they would avail themselves of one of the opportunities that are within it. I'm not in opposition to 658 as written, nor for the bulk of this amendment. But I do think that in modifying the Bohlke amendment that we ought to retain the idea that the schools are given the ultimate flexibility in determining the programs that they feel are necessary, but that those programs, when they are decided upon, shall include the process for the continuation of academic work toward graduation. So I am