

Withem, I have a couple of questions for you on your...going back to your amendment.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Senator Withem, would you respond.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes, I will.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Okay, I'm a high school principal and...

SPEAKER WITHEM: No, you're not, Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: I'd make a good one though.

SPEAKER WITHEM: You would.

SENATOR ROBINSON: If I could still have my old rolled-up Life magazine, I'd make a good...of course, I wouldn't be there very long, but anyway, high school principal, we put in the language that was in your amendment and he tries all of these and we've got two or three kids that just won't do it. Then we expel again. Is that right? What would you do if you were in that principal's shoes, really give it the great effort and then try two or three and then they...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Try two or three alternative programs and the kid didn't...I think that's a good question and I think it would be one that probably as we get into the rule and reg writing authority, Department of Ed, that they will be able to deal with that issue. I would not see it realistic if a young person is expelled from school for an offense that that young person committed, if this bill passes, then the school district will have an obligation for some sort of alternative placement and not just put them out on the street. If they're in that alternative placement and that doesn't work out, I do not think the school district has an indefinite number of obligations to continue to work with that student. I think we're talking about a good faith effort to get it done. That would be my intention. That would be the common sense approach to getting this done.

SENATOR ROBINSON: I called the superintendent a few minutes ago and he says, well I don't think that's our problem. He says I think it's society's problem. I said, the society is meeting in Lincoln right now, I want you to know that. My other question, in those programs, and it's not in the...I don't think it's in the bill, would they have to be working towards graduation? Now