

\$36 million which are for programs that I consider extremely important. I mean even if we might not lose it, I'm not willing to take that risk like I said the other day when we started this debate. I don't want to go home and face constituents and find that we lost our Chapter I money and they say, well, why, and I say, well, the federal law required us to severely penalize students that had guns in school, and they would say, you mean you're willing to risk that for the fact that you thought there was too severe a punishment. I mean, I'm not going to do that. I'm going to support 658 despite the fact that it was unnecessary to put the alternative education language into this bill. That was a proposal in Education Committee which didn't get out of committee. It could have come back next year as a bill. It could have been...schools could have had notice of it, a chance for input, but those that wanted to push it decided not to do it that way, and I understand that. That's their alternative. I'm not naive but I know that they knew they could get it this way and I guess they did. Two hundred nine expulsions out of 141,000 students and we are mandating every school to have a program by January 1 of '97, folks. Think about that, and I'm not opposed, I told you we did the program, we have the program. But I like to see it come from the local people voluntarily so they don't feel like they're taking money away from other things, again building resentment for those students that caused them to have an alternative education program, those students who are gifted not being able to have programs that very much would help them become better students and better citizens and contribute to society because we don't have enough resources to do everything. But for 209 expulsions out of 141,000, we're going to say we need to mandate this and we need to mandate it as part of this bill because nobody can vote against that and risk \$36 million. Let's be serious, you know. You can't do that. I'm voting for LB 658 because I have to for the kids and the schools so I don't stand risking the money but I won't forget the method and the way in which this was done. I don't know that I'll ever use it but I won't forget it and I'm sorry it has to be done this way. I don't think it would have had to have been. I think by '97 we could have been the same place with a bill introduced in the next session.

SENATOR LINDSAY: One minute.

SENATOR BROMM: The schools that I called about this yesterday afternoon and this morning knew nothing about it. I just talked to the School Board Association lobbyists and asked them what