

CLERK: Senator Robak would move to return the bill, Madam President. (AM2334 may be found on page 2396 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Robak to open on her motion.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Madam Chairman. Madam Chairman and members of the body, this amendment that I'm introducing is AM2334. It's found on page 2396 of the Journal. You do have them on your desk. I passed them out this morning. I did pass them out the other day when we were approaching LB 860. And what this amendment does, it removes the priority language for disbursement of monies for statewide public computer information networks. This was brought to my attention by a constituent that schools which already have installed such information systems are being penalized by the original bill language. It's on page 9. The original bill states that first priority shall be given for direct connections. All other disbursements should be subsequent. I find that a little unfair also. This amendment simply states that monies in the School Technology Fund shall be doled out for the original hookups or if that process is done, for expanding networks, purchasing additional equipment, or as other needs are determined by the Board of Education. What I think this amendment does, it gives flexibility in awarding the grants. Some schools have already put in connections, could get money for additional equipment. It would be more fair than...fair to those who have already invested in connections. I did support the bracket motion because of a lot of the reasons as I stated in my amendment. Also I would like to state at this time that we did have a lot of debate on Select File on this amendment but we did not have a public hearing. I think that's important to remember that, too. And I just urge the body to...to vote for AM2334. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Robak. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I wholeheartedly support Senator Robak's amendment. Let me go back again to the concept in this bill that those who have already made the effort to pay some of this money are not being reimbursed. This Robak amendment and what's been said on this floor is not saying that they must be reimbursed but it's just saying they may be reimbursed. They should be considered