

teachers. So will you stand and be recognized. On the Schimek amendment, Senators Wehrbein, Schimek and Witek.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members. I am going to be very brief on this. Just so...Senator Bohlke indicated there was a letter sent. The letter, I do have that letter. The letter said that they had, the department has considered submitting a request to Appropriations Committee to fund the high-speed braille printer, and so forth. That's true. The only thing we cannot find a request at all to the Appropriations. Now this is not direct to the debate. I just want you...that's why we did not have it on the table. There's an awareness to the issue but there was not a formal request from the Department of Ed. That's the reason we did not take this issue up as a formal request, and that's the reason I'm making my opposition to this at this point. We had not had it. It was not aware of the issue, and we would not have considered it an emergency issue, and so that's the basis for my opposition. I really don't want to take away my...the seriousness of what you're offering. I recognize that it's a serious amendment and recognize that. We just haven't added anything in, such as this, into our budget, so it's up to the body's decision, as far as I'm concerned. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN PRESIDING

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body, I would like to respond to a couple of things and up front I would like to say that I understand the appropriations process. I appreciate the process and I think there do have to be some rules and procedure. However, I also think that this request is a very small amount in the whole scheme of things, and it is a very important request for a very important population that feels that it is not getting the services that it needs in some of the school systems in this state. And I think that...that it's very important that we do something for these students today. I don't think that the appropriations process is that precious that it can't be overridden once in awhile, and I...I...Senator Wehrbein, I know you're sympathetic to this issue. I know you are and I don't take it that you're not, or any other member of the Appropriations Committee. I just...I