

that may be used for some lawsuit later on, and I personally believe that's a bogus argument. To simply say that we recognize...that we recognize the unique cost associated with funding, we recognize the unique factors of a lot of districts, whether it's schools, whether it's cities, whether...whatever, and we may recognize that we do not currently recognize the unique costs. But recognizing the costs, the unique costs, and saying that what we are going to do about it, if anything, are two different things. And so if people are starting to get a little goosy because of some people I think really waving a red herring about law...lawsuits, and what have you, I don't see any problems with that at all. I really don't, and so, again, Jim, I think you've done excellent work on this. I think it's a good thing to do. It does make sense to look at that, and I know Senator Withem has promised you, and certainly I do as well, with whatever influence I have on that structure, to be very serious about trying to find what may or may not work in the context of what we're doing, not only with school finance, but also with LB 1114 and LB 299 process that will be going on as well. And for that, Senator Jones, you deserve, and others, Senator Wickersham and others, deserve a lot of credit. I want to make sure that your constituency knows that and at least that it is on the record here, and I appreciate the work that you do.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. If Senator Withem would respond to a couple of questions.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Withem.

SPEAKER WITHEM: I'd be happy to.

SENATOR WILL: Senator Withem, the first sentence of your amendment, the Legislature recognizes that the Tax Equity, and so on, appears on the face of it to be fairly strong language and that's come up in a couple of other senators' remarks that that may be, you know, for some unknown reason some element of a lawsuit for some reason, but I think, historically, haven't we made statements of this type in the education statutes?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yeah, we have. Thank you, Senator Will, and I was going to punch my light on or comment in my closing about