

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Yes, Madam Chairman, members, Senator Brown, I am having a little, I did get a copy of your amendment and am having a little difficulty in that I guess my thought with 1114 was, though we put some restrictions, quite a few, on schools and with the lids and the levies and so forth, what I see your amendment here doing is putting even more restrictions on how they will meet those levies, and that we've pretty well laid out what kinds of things they can do. I guess my thought was is that here are the limits and that schools and local school boards, and so forth, would have to then determine be it through consolidation, collaboration, changes in struct...whatever that they can do, that they would, then, decide what their plan would be to reach those different levels. Here I see that we are telling them what types of things they will need to, if there are going to be any types of reductions, and...or changes, that they will only have to be in certain areas first, and we've already done the prioritizing as far as how they can approach this. So I'd kind of like your thoughts on that. Is that what we are doing? We're prior...we basically are laying out here how they are going to prioritize what it is they are going to do, and what they can do first, and then, secondly, I didn't catch all of it but you said something about that there was an agreement and a consensus, and I don't know who was involved. I guess I would like to know who was involved in the agreement and who said there was a consensus that this would happen. And so if you could address those, I would just give you the rest of my time, Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Thank you, Senator Hillman. This amendment is intent language. I don't believe that it is necessarily restrictive or that it necessarily eliminates flexibility. What I believe that it does is to further the dialogue about what our priorities are. In terms of the question about the concerns, and the school administrators had a number of concerns about some original language that I had that was far more specific than this language, the things that are suggested in here are just suggestions, but they are suggestions that are...that the emphasis is to keep the cuts as far away from the children as possible, and not to have the immediate reaction to be that classroom expenditures are the first things that have to be cut, and that's fully acknowledging that there are going to be difficulties in managing some of the costs that we are talking