

about, especially if 80 percent of the budget is in salaries. But the school administrators and NSEA, who are both interested in this, but in different ways, in this amendment, were the ones that had agreed to the language, that this was less specific and less threatening language and didn't really tie their hands, but just allowed us to keep having the discussion. And I guess in response to some of the things that Senator Crosby said, my...my feeling about this is that it's purely intent language that furthers the discussion that we are going to have with the public about what these lids mean. And we are making some decisions that are going have enormous...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR BROWN: ...impact on local governments, and I want...I want the citizenry to share some of the discussions that we've had on Senator Beutler's amendment, on Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment on another bill, so that they understand that what we're not...that we are not willing to throw the children out with the bathwater; that our goal in offering these is to provide a framework for discussion of the need to control expenditures, and part of that framework is that we believe in children. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, we discussed in committee, and I'm embarrassed to say I can't find it in any of the bills at the moment, but we did adopt something, not similar to this, but conceptually similar was suggested, I think it's...I believe Senator Brown also indicated it was in, whac, LB 643, I believe, it was discussed last year, at least it was a bill last year, and we adopted a broader concept. It was not specific just to...to schools, but it was conceptually as a guideline and as an intent provision, but I can't find the amendment I know we adopted, but it is somewhere. But, anyway, the bottom line is, I don't have a problem with the proposal as Senator Brown has indicated and, as she indicates, it is intent. It is kind of a guide of things, not binding, what has to be done, but it is a guide that, well, I am sure would be helpful in this two-year interim to look at the kind of impact that these provisions may have as local governments look for ways to become more cost effective. And with that in mind, I have no problem, personally, at least, with the adoption of