

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

SENATOR BROWN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. The discussion has tended to focus, I believe, on the word "shall" rather than on the word "consider" which reductions in the areas. I mean "consider" to me is a very permissive word that talks about pondering, it talks about serious regard, and it's not that I don't believe that the school administrators will do that. I certainly do. What we're talking about here is furthering the discussion that we've had on the floor about what the priorities are and priorities in light of the lids that we are going to be placing on local subdivisions. I'd like to ask...Senator Bromm, I'd like to ask you a question.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Yes.

SENATOR BROWN: You used the word "micromanage" in terms of this amendment. Do you believe that lids are micromanagement?

SENATOR BROMM: In the area of how we finance our schools, they...or our political subdivisions, yes, to a degree they are.

SENATOR BROWN: Thank you. One of the things that I would say is that we've already entered into this field, and our justification is that we are going to have good quality discussions with the local populations about why we are doing this. And part of that is for us to set forth our commitment to children, and Senator Wickersham said this is not unique, and I agree absolutely, but I think that children's education is very important, and I want to say that that's very important. And we've had some, I believe, very edifying discussions on the floor of the Legislature about what our commitment is, and some reservations about...about lids, and we're all struggling with it, but it's all a part of having the discussion. And part of that discussion, in my mind, is for us to prioritize what we think is important, and I think that the future of our children is the future of this state. It is the economic future of our state. It is everything about the future, and so it doesn't hurt my feelings at all to say that the academic programs involving students are a priority. Senator Hillman talked about motivating local subdivisions to do the right thing, to do the kind of things we want them to. Well, for me, the kind of