

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I yield my time to Senator Chambers.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Madam President, members of the Legislature, Senator Lindsay, or Senator Brown. Is Senator Lindsay available?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Here he comes and we have enough time for him to make it to his desk. Senator Lindsay, this is the question that I'm going to ask, with or without your amendment what is there that would prevent these school systems from cutting academics first?

SENATOR LINDSAY: Nothing.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Senator Brown, I would ask you the same question...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Brown.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...to make sure that I don't misunderstand your amendment. What, in your amendment or anything in the existing law or this bill that would prevent the school systems from cutting academics first?

SENATOR BROWN: I think that, as I said this morning, a lot of it has to do with the discussion that we're having with the populace about spending caps. I think if there's anything that would stop them it would be the way it would be perceived by us and by the voting public.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Brown, you gave your rationale for what you say. But what in the law would prevent the schools from cutting academics first, if they chose that route?

SENATOR BROWN: Nothing in the law.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Why don't you and Senator Lindsay get together and draft an amendment that would stop them from cutting academics first, not necessarily a laundry list of one,