

Senator Witek. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I think even though the amendment, some of the amendments have been withdrawn or in this case was not germane to the bill, point very clearly to the problems of lids. When you go on the lid side and you are again in a public school situation where you do not have control over 70-some percent of your budget, when you don't have control over that as the CIR debate somewhat hinted at, it shows the fallacy of any real logic in relations to lids and quality education. One of the things that I handed out was a...actually something that was brought to my attention by Senator Maurstad about a week ago, and it was highlighted and it goes in to talk about some of the new research techniques that are out there and the latest one is canonical analysis and when they have gone back and looked at education, if you look at the bottom part, and particularly the back page, what they are beginning to establish is that there is a relationship between increased spending of dollars and higher test scores and better education quality if it is targeted in particular areas, not like the case of Kansas City where they put \$1.6 billion and have gymnasiums and photo labs and everything else, but when it is targeted in specific areas, particularly paying teachers more by attracting a higher degree instructor and smaller class sizes. If you look at 299 and 1141 (sic) and you combine those things, what we are going to end up with is larger class sizes, and in some cases I would argue some of the best quality teachers will not be able to be hired. And though I would agree with Senator Warner that there are some teachers that have great seniority that are the best, I would not go as far as to say that most of your best teachers are those with the most seniority. That is not the case in education. Many times in education the best teachers are in fact the ones that have just gotten their masters degree or have just gotten their degree. They have the new ideas, they have the technology, expertise that they can work in distance learning but they will not be able to get the jobs two years from now because the riffing that will take place. Because in riffing you take the most senior members, and if they are going to lose the job they can undercut anyone who has lesser seniority. And so, consequently, we are going to have many, and as a result of these bills, in my judgment, a negative effect on those things that are beginning to show clearly increases quality of education. I have been interested on 299 that there