

of me. (See page 2160 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR HALL: Senator Bernard-Stevens, you are recognized to open on your amendment.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you. Senator Hall, members of the Legislature, this amendment is a derivative of what we talked about on the budget bill. If the members want to go back, one of the amendments that I offered that failed was adding \$100,000 to the Department of Education so that they could do some of the policy questions and initiatives we are going to be asking the Department of Education and the State Board to do. Senator Bohlke I think raised a very valid point where when she rose and thought that instead of just giving a lump sum without...with any guidance on exactly where, that we should be much more specific, and I think rightly that amendment was defeated. And what this is is taking Senator Bohlke's suggestion to heart and the amendment that is in the Journal, page 2160, is simply saying here is...there is hereby appropriated \$30,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Education to Program 25 in carrying out the provisions of LB 742. And, in essence, what this says, no matter how the fight next week ends, whether the Bromm-Bohlke amendment is agreed to, whether the McKenzie-Bernard-Stevens amendment is agreed to, or whether or not there is something in the middle that we can all agree to it does say that we are asking the Department of Education to do a tremendous amount. We want to give them the tools so that they can do the job, and that is what this amendment would do.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Witek, your light is on to speak to the Bernard-Stevens amendment.

SENATOR WITEK: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise in support of the Bernard-Stevens amendment. I don't like to spend money but I know that this is something that we really will more than likely be able to find some good solutions to some of the out-of-control spending in these areas of education. And really it is an unfunded mandate in LB 742 to require that these...that this recommendation be formulated and not give any additional funds in order for them to carry out that request. And I think it is...I hope it will be \$30,000 very well spent and will save a lot of money in the future and, definitely, I hope make it a much more efficient and effective area of education. So I hope