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state level in a matter should only come at such time as there appears to be total intransigence on the part of the education establishment with regard to a direction that the Legislature feels education should be moving in. And I don't feel that in this particular situation that's what we've run into. What we've run into is an education establishment that has been working with a couple of different theories in teaching children. It may be true that in certain school districts the pendulum has swung too far away from phonics, but one of the advantages and virtues of local control is that we allow some of this to happen. We learn from the mistakes of certain school districts and the system moves back into some kind of balance again. My perception is that the system is, in fact, on its own, without any help from us, moving back into balance again. I think Senator Witek has served a good purpose by highlighting this debate, by highlighting the possibility of this imbalance, but I think that the debate, itself, well served the purpose of making the education establishment look at the different needs of different children when it comes...when it comes to the way to learn reading. So having said that, at least at this point in time, and on this particular bill, which has to do with a somewhat different objective, I don't think that I can support this particular amendment. And I would like to say, finally, I am sorry that Senator Witek wishes to latch onto a couple of words of the chairperson of the Education Committee and threaten that literally she is going to tell the state that she said there is only one or two persons that support phonics. The chairperson of the Education Committee has always been very broad-minded, has always listened to every segment of the population, and I know that she understands that there a lot of people out there concerned about phonics. And so I wish that we would keep this debate constructive and on point, and recognize people for who they really are, and how they really operate. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Kiel.

SENATOR KIEL: Thank you, Madam Lieutenant Governor and members of the Legislature. I think Senator Beutler said some of the things that I had intended to say. I have my master's degree in reading. I have taught reading for a number of years, and I happen to believe that phonics instruction is very important to