

as well as they should be educated, is a misallocation of our resources and is a terrible mistake. So for policy reasons, for purely policy reasons I would not be able to support the Withem amendment which in effect would reduce the level of the cut from three percent to two percent. Finally, this is a \$1.3 million amendment. As Senator Warner points out, as we begin to affect these kinds of amendments we move so far from the \$17 million mark that we then expose LB 1 to a series of very pernicious vetoes.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vickers, then Senator Marsh.

SENATOR VICKERS: Question.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 1 nay to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Debate has ceased. Senator Withem, would you like to close, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, I would. Mr. President, members of the body, Senator Rupp suggested that maybe a good closing argument would be for me to stand up and claim that this is a revenue neutral amendment, but I don't know if I can get away with that or not. So I will not claim that. I do recognize the difficulty, particularly here when we are on Final Reading of this particular bill. We fought out the budget bill, had a difficult time of coming to a consensus. I know the difficulty of getting you to vote for this amendment, getting 25 votes to support this amendment. I do follow through with this amendment though because I think we have not done a particularly good job in this body in the last few years of discussing why we, on the state level, provide state aid to education. Why do we consider it our responsibility? We haven't pointed out to the body that Nebraska is the second or third lowest state in the nation in the amount of revenue that we provide to the local districts to run education. We have not really participated in the type of discussion that Senator Johnson was leading us down about how we more efficiently provide educational services for young people. We haven't point out what equalization aid is versus what is foundation aid. We