

this point. So, all I can say is that I don't think it is a good idea, that it has two problems. One is that it is a reduction, a further reduction of state aid to schools. It is also changing the rules in LB 2 and so some schools would be cut completely out of state aid, so I oppose that too. Also the nebulous situation we have here that Senator Withem described, if we would do one part of this proposal and not the other part, where does that leave us? So I think it is not a good idea. I do not support Senator Vickers' motion.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you. Senator Vickers, would you like to close on your amendment, please.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, I'm not sure that too many people are listening or even care or understand. Those of you that have an amendment up there yet, those of you that have some program that you'd like to save, those of you that have a few dollars you'd like to stick back into whatever, maybe you ought to vote for this. Maybe you'd ought to vote for this because this would give you some of those dollars. What it would do is set up a mechanism, assuming that you vote for the next statutory change. Now let me explain. LB 2 is after LB 1. LB 2 is a statutory bill. LB 1 is an appropriation bill. You can't make statutory language changes in an appropriations bill. It is not my fault that is the way the agenda is, but that's the way it is. Now Senator Withem says he doesn't want to roll the dice. Well, the simple fact is, and Senator Withem is telling his school districts we're going to take a cut, we're going to take a cut because I'm afraid to roll the dice. Well this is a way for you to not take a cut, Senator Withem, if you change it and make the statutory change in the next bill. It is a way you can get some funds to do some of the other things that some people would like to do, but more importantly for my perspective it is a way for this state to begin to say we're going to send our money out only for the highest quality standards that we've got. It's not a way that we're going to say we're going to continue sending money out to help, I don't care how low the standards are as long as they meet the very minimal approval level. And if you think you're going to hurt a lot of people out there, you are not because most of those schools that are in that level have a pretty good sized tax base anyhow. Let me tell you about one of those schools. One of those schools happens, up until just recently, to be my own school. My own school became an approved school for a little while. And I'll tell you this much and I'll tell it right here before God and everybody, it's a good thing we don't have any kids in that