

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Senator Bromm. A response to a couple of the things that have been said so far. First of all, so often when we hear criticism of our schools from people who are saying that we aren't doing the job, and I speak to a lot of groups where that subject comes up, and my response is always if schools are to do their job, we must have children present in the classroom. This isn't any different message that I say to anyone, any parents at any time. And, yes, there is a reason that they oftentimes aren't present in the classroom and that's because it is not a priority in that family. I'm not talking about just welfare parents, but I'm talking about parents who allow their children to work and close up till one o'clock in the morning and then say, well, I need to let them sleep because they've been working so hard. I am saying that it's an attitude that we have to say to parents over and over and over again, it is a priority that you have your children in attendance and in the classroom. That is a message...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BOHLKE: ...that we have no longer...we are no longer giving to parents, and it is a general attitude throughout our society that that attendance is absolutely not a priority. And I'm suggesting every time that we can say to parents that this is a priority and it should be a top priority for you and your family, I'll say it to a parent in any situation in any school, whether it's a welfare parent or not. And then also when Senator Bernard-Stevens was speaking about the child who may be leaving school and then is going to be punished, if that child had a job and was leaving school, that child would have a work permit to leave school. That system is in place and also to correct the statement that a child may, under the Student Discipline Act, may be able to only work and not attend school, that is incorrect, that's not true. The child must be in some type of a school setting and a school plan. And so, with that, I say again that...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR BOHLKE: ...I think with the word change that I hope that you oppose the Chambers amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Beutler.