

have you all allowed approved schools in the past? Why has there not been a move from the Department of Education to close approved schools? Those...I submit that those Class I, or any of those approved schools are out there because they serve a special purpose. They have low teacher ratios...low pupil ratios. There is no evidence suggesting they are getting a poor education. This is a subterfuge, this is reorganization that will cause repercussions for many years. I would like to see the bill remain on Select File and let's talk about it some more.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Any other discussion? Senator Haberman, your light is on.

SENATOR HABERMAN: I don't think I can get away with this, but I'll call the question.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Yours is the only light on. Close, Senator Withem, do you care to make a closing statement?

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, I would. I would like to advance the bill. Just very, very briefly would like to say I think we have done a, sorry Senator Pappas, we've done a good job here of hammering out a good compromise on the floor. I find it interesting that the opponents of the bill itself, when they throw up an argument and in good faith with the body will adopt an amendment to answer that concern, and suddenly that answer that they gave becomes evil in and of itself. I feel like every time Senator Lamb or Senator Langford or some other individual talks about this being mandatory reorganization, I've just got to come back and say it ain't true, it's not in there. This is not mandatory reorganization. It is a process bill that allows more local control back within the counties to make those decisions. We have made another giant step, I think, here today by indicating that we are going to differentiate between school districts, and we are going to differentiate based on the quality of education they offer. Again I know full well when we get to 417 and start talking about some of those accreditation standards we'll answer some of those concerns, and it will still be all wrong to some people. Some people just can't be satisfied. I think we've got a good bill here now and I'd urge you to advance it.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The question is, shall the bill be advanced? All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Have you all voted if you care to vote? Have you all