

We'd like to see contiguous kind of districts as we set them up. If we do away with the double choice we are harming a lot of districts who had already got their petition plans ready and were planning on using choice for some of their students and when we put this into place, then we throw them off track again. And we might...another thing that might happen if we do away with the double choice is we might have districts that are, that just have spots of districts go to one district, another piece will go to another district over here. We're not going to have contiguous nice straight lines as far as school districts go. I think we could cause some severe problems that way. You also have a number of cases where you have renters on land and when you don't allow them choice, you're not allowing those students that ability to choose a school that they might want to go to and I don't think we should do that. Basically we don't want to promote checkerboarding as we do affiliation and I think that this amendment does promote checkerboarding and I certainly don't want that to happen. There is a problem out there, but I think that Senator Withem and I talked about it one day and we think that we might actually be over regulating this process as it goes into place in the state. We might be reacting too quickly to some of the problems as they come up, trying to solve that legislatively when many of the problems are actually being worked out by the individual school districts themselves and so we don't need quite so much regulation on it. So with that, I propose this amendment which deals with the transportation issue and also strikes out the double choice amendment and leaves in place the ability for schools that do affiliate or do merge the ability to use choice and so that students are allowed to go to the districts that they want to go to. That is the main goal of open enrollment or choice is to allow students the best educational opportunity that can be afforded to those students. And I think the amendment that I put on, on General File, did preclude some students from having that option. I'm going to take that off now. I think that every student in the state ought to have that option of being able to go to what school district they want. With that, I would be happy to answer any questions. If there are none, I'd just urge the advancement of the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Speaker Baack. Is there anyone who wishes to speak to this amendment? Seeing none, we will vote on the Baack amendment. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.