

mandates. I think that that's wrong and not in character with the school system that has local control. But this bill is an exception, and it's an exception that's been made by not only the Nebraska State Education Association which supported the bill, the School Board Association, which supported the bill, but many other individuals that on principle would not support such mandates placed in our law concerning curriculum, but in this case the overwhelming public good that would result from having such educational programs in our schools overrides that initial concern, and the thinking in terms of long range benefits leads these groups and individuals who spoke at the hearing and have supported this bill throughout to speak on its behalf. So I think this bill is positive and I think the issues raised can...I hope I've been able to answer them. As other people have a chance to speak on this measure, if you have questions ask me, I think I can answer them. The bill is a good bill. It's going to be a positive bill for the State of Nebraska, and I urge you to support it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Murphy, you are recognized. You have a motion up here. Clerk read the motion first.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Murphy moves to indefinitely postpone LB 63.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: Ladies and gentlemen, I do this strictly on the context that this is not a proper form of legislation for this body to engage in. I certainly find no fault with the thought that our schools should encourage understanding of the handicapped. We presently have 749 employees in the State Department of Education who are thinking up things to do and looking for more things to think up to do, and I don't think we need this particular thought, because I think the human compassion would dictate to any school board that this should be done. Now, if the Department of Education has circulated a recommendation to the local school boards, not a mandate, but a recommendation, and they have refused to cooperate, then I will back away. Senator Wesely says that most of the schools do not do this, and I question his statistics. I know not from whence they come, nor what the percentages are, but I have reason as a matter of independent judgment to question it. Our Constitution says that the Legislature shall pass no laws dealing with the operation of schools. I am not an attorney, but I think this is a law dealing with the operation of schools, which would be unconstitutional. But my basic opposition to this is that