

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Haberman isn't in the panhandle and the panhandle is without sin.

SENATOR DWORAK: If ever there is an area where we need adequate disclosure it is in the area that Senator Haberman is trying to amend out. The fact of the matter is is when you are in a position like the State Legislature or some Board of Regents or some significant situation you usually control enough media where you are scrutinized pretty closely but some of these smaller boards are just the very type of board that needs or the public needs to have access to the board members and what they represent and their contributions and their conflicts of interest. So I agree with Senator Koch, Senator Beutler in that I very strongly oppose this amendment. What is good for the goose is good for the gander. We have political accountability. We should be consistent across the State of Nebraska rather than come up with a fragmented approach where we put and take and take away some people and exclude others. It is just not good social or legislative policy.

SPEAKER MARVEL: In the North balcony from Senator Maresh's district, 30 students from fifth and sixth grade, Fairmont School, Fairmont, Nebraska, five adults. Isabelle Whitmore, Bev Griess, teachers in the North balcony. Will you raise your hands so we can see where you are and welcome you to the Unicameral. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I rise to support the Haberman amendment. I think it is a good amendment and I would like to just cite one instance that happened in one of the counties that I represent. This happened in Cedar County several years ago. The Planning and Zoning Commission resigned en masse. They did this after they found out that they had to report to the Accountability and Disclosure Commission. They said that rather than disclose their holdings, they would resign and they did this. So I ask you, what do we accomplish when we put these tight restrictions onto the members of some of these boards? We do not accomplish anything. In fact, in these rural counties it is real hard to get people to serve on these boards and so at the present time, for the last two years, we have not had a County Zoning and Planning Board. I have been working with the county commissioners in this county trying to get them to appoint new members but when they try to appoint these members why they turn them down because they say that they do not want to have anything to do with the Accountability and Disclosure Commission. And so, I think that we should adopt the Haberman amendment.