

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, I'm glad to hear that Senator Peterson doesn't want to mandate things to the school boards in this state. I hope he keeps that in mind in the future. I guess I'm going to have to tell a little personal story too since Senator Peterson did. I've got a daughter that were it not for Title IX probably wouldn't have got as good a college education as she did. She went through college up here at the University of Nebraska on a track scholarship. I happen to think that athletics for women if you want to talk about athletics is a good thing. Keeping your body in shape is good for any of us. Exercise as it relates to your heart is also good for any of us and I can attest to that since my wife has had open heart surgery and has to have a certain amount of exercise now in order to continue to build that muscle back up. But Title IX from the federal government or the legislation that we have before us is not specifically talking about athletics. It is talking about equal opportunities and I also find it rather strange that some of my colleagues are going to oppose this bill because the federal government has already done it, therefore, we don't need to do it even though they think it is a good idea, even though they don't think it is wise to discriminate. But those same people will vote for bills on this floor or in their committees that are designed to bring us in compliance with some requirements from the federal government that they don't even agree with. So I think it seems to me is that we are saying if the federal government requires us to do things that we don't agree with we will do it anyway because they are requiring us to do it. On the other hand if the federal government requires us to do things that we do agree with we're certainly not going to put it in our statutes simply because the federal government has got it and, therefore, even though we agree with it, we don't want it there. I think that is ridiculous. If anybody can explain it to me I wish they would. Equal opportunities, you know, that is a two edged sword. It could work both ways. A lot of talk has been said here about the females and the opportunities that this might allow the girls of Nebraska as far as their educational opportunities are concerned or athletic opportunities, but what about the boy that might want to be in home ec class? It works that way also and for anybody to say on this floor that it is not a good idea for that sort of thing to happen I think again, is ridiculous. I don't think there is anything in LB 628 that is going to cause anybody any problems anywhere in this state but it certainly is going to do a lot of good. Since I told you that I had a daughter that went through the University of Nebraska on a track scholarship I would like to tell you that even though