

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Goll.

SENATOR GOLL: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise in opposition to Senator Beutler's amendment as well as do I rise in opposition to LB 305. I have gone to the people in the 16th District. I have talked to school boards. I have talked to school teachers. I have talked to administrators, and most important, I have talked to parents. And since this bill started its way through the halls of government, I haven't found one person that speaks in favor of mandatory compulsory education until they are seventeen. Quite truthfully, I don't know why the magic figure is sixteen. Maybe that is when we first get kissed or maybe we become sweeter or maybe we get that car license but I do think sixteen is when we kind of move from the teenage element to being a little bigger guy and a little bigger girl, and I think truthfully what we are dealing with is not the sixteen, what we are dealing with the twelve and the thirteen and the fourteen and the fifteen year olds. We are dealing with the truants and the tardy and the flunking and who knows what else. You know the pitiful part about this whole thing is that we probably should be dealing with the parents instead of the kids because in all probability they are the fault of the whole thing. And I don't think it's...I think we need not forget that the schools are nurturing these kids. They are trying to get them into music. They are trying to get them into athletics. They are trying to teach them something. When all else fails, they quit if that is what they want to do. And so we are not just dealing with a sixteen year old who suddenly wants to go out and get a job, buy a car, and, Senator Beutler, if they want to buy one of those new cars, I can assure you they better have plenty of money because that is what they cost. So the decision here is, do we continue to force individuals to influence, associate, and disarray those who are interested in their education. It is my opinion and it is the opinion of the people in my district and the opinion of many more across our state that nothing will be gained educationally. And I would like to read in conclusion the last paragraph of a letter that I received from a person who is interested in education. "Nothing, nothing will be gained educationally by passing this bill. It can only detract from young people who are trying to get an education." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, I rise to oppose Senator Beutler's amendment also. As we talked about a little earlier and Senator Beutler pointed it out, it is