

a grand illusion that we nurture in here that we are going to solve all the problems as far as the dropouts are concerned by addressing the age situation. That would be grand if we could do it. Unfortunately that is not the case. But what Senator Beutler's amendment would do, it would say that those people, that for four years right now we are going to experiment with them. We are going to raise it to seventeen. Well, since I don't have any children in that age group, maybe I shouldn't care but I do because for those people, those young people that are in that age group, that would be caught in this grand experiment, we would be playing with their lives. We would be playing with the administrations of the schools, forcing them to do some things trying to keep these young people in school against their will that would disrupt everybody else that is going through school at that point in time. Now we might think all we are dealing with are those twenty percent or whatever of the individuals that are wanting out of school. That is not true because trying to force them to stay there is going to have a negative impact on all of the rest of the young people that are in school for those four years also. If you are in a class and you have got one or two or three individuals in that class that really don't want to be there and are being forced to stay there, even though their parents can't keep them there but the state is trying to force them to stay there, you can imagine this disruptive influence it is going to have on the rest of the class. So I don't think it would be fair, not only to those people wanting out, but I don't think it would...I think it would be extremely unfair for those young people that are really trying to get something out of those courses to put them in that type of a situation. As I indicated a little bit ago, the intentions are great but there are certainly other ways to address this situation than trying to do it this way and I would suggest that we have got a bill in committee that Senator Beutler originally introduced that would give an alternative to some of those young people that would be a far better solution to this problem than what Senator Beutler is proposing this morning.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose the amendment. I think we've forgotten something. Let's educate instead of legislate, Senator Beutler, Senator Koch, Senator Wiitala. You are the people who are very close to education. Let's educate these young people to stay in school instead of legislate and mandate they will stay in school. I think we ought to start leaving the young people alone. Let's let them work