

then preclude government intervention on the basis of that individual standard. There have to be some common standards. My point is that we must perpetuate democratic society in order to preserve the protective umbrella which itself shields religious freedom from the reigns of tyranny. So the next question you get to is what is at the core of democratic society? What must we have to ensure that our system will remain strong? And most of all, in my opinion, we need a large body of citizens who can make discerning political judgments and who can man the economic machine which affords us so many alternatives, not just material alternatives but social and political alternatives. And to have that kind of citizen we must have good education, good education for as many citizens as possible and we have recognized that by the amount of money and resources that we have put into education and we have recognized that by the structuring of our education. We are not structured after the European model where only a few are educated. We are structured on a model that attempts to educate the many. This kind of education...

SENATOR NICHOL: Thirty seconds.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...of which I am speaking is the compelling state interest. How do we in Nebraska then ensure that the citizens are educated? What legal tools have we found over time to be necessary and expedient to that end? There are three cornerstones to education in Nebraska. One is the compulsory attendance law; the second is the teacher certification law and the third is the minimum curriculum requirements law. Those are the three important laws that underpin all of education in Nebraska and today by this amendment you are being asked to allow any group who so feels to essentially wipe out two of those three cornerstones. All you have to do under this amendment is to declare that it is contrary to your religious beliefs and all of these minimum requirements, the slow thoughtful work of two hundred years....

SENATOR NICHOL: Your time is up.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...of progress in this state can be wiped out in a.....