

we take that additional step? But upon reflection I'm convinced that maybe that additional step is for the benefit of the Christian Schools. Yes, they will be subject to whatever examination and scrutiny and let's see where we are in three or four years, I guess it would be about four. I think in four years that you will agree completely and I think the amendment with the sunset does no damage. You may remember, however, for those of you who questioned whether my original bill was stricter, 472A had a sunset next year, half as long. So I'm plumb willing to go along with twice as long a sunset as my original proposal that you thought was too lenient. And I do believe that the opportunity for people to talk and communicate in this four years will hopefully improve the attitudes of both sides about the real intentions of the other side. Senator Vickers did say one thing that I think needs to be addressed on this subject. He said, "We're playing with children's lives." And indeed that is true. Now do you believe anyone in this body believes that parents who go to all the trouble to risk going to jail to finance a separate school system to do all the things that they are doing to make sure that their child gets a specialized, what they deem to be Christian education, do you really believe that those parents aren't concerned about their children? Maybe there is just the chance if you talk to some of them that they are the most concerned parents about their children of any parents in this state. So I go along with the amendment. I don't think it presents any problem.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Wiitala.

SENATOR WIITALA: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, colleagues, I rise in opposition to Senator Koch's amendment that places a sunset on John DeCamp's amendment to LB 652. I feel the sunset is tantamount to placing a sunset on the long history of what this state stands for when it comes to education. Like Senator Koch I respect his point of view and what he has tried to do in addressing this issue. Many of you know that I also supported the original Christian School issue before this body. For purposes of discussion, for purposes of a fair hearing, to get about every ounce of possible insight possible I welcomed pastors into my office. I responded to nearly all their letters. I visited one of their schools and now we come down to our day of judgment. It is very easy for me to get involved in the emotions. It is very easy for me to be empathetic but I stand before you today, not representing the interests of solely public education but the interests of the state. It hurt me deeply when I went out into the lobby to talk to a supporter of public education and as I came back into this Chamber a pastor remarked,