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LB 208

Lamb and Senator Remmers. I have been on the Education Committee for eight years and I have heard this issue so often that I just don't feel as though I want to hear it around here too much longer if we can resolve it. I believe it is important that when you start talking about accreditation that you understand what accreditation is about because there are still schools accredited that can have a certain number of demerits and they are still called accredited. So when you are talking about accreditation of schools in this state, you are talking about accreditation most of them have but there are also certain degrees as to how high that accreditation might be, and I think it is imperative if you want to help people who want to freehold and they are going to do this permanently, you want to remember, then you have to maintain the present amendment that I am talking to which gets down to the issue of the standard that an accreditation school holds and there are standards and Senator Remmers knows this having been a school administrator for a number of years. We also know that when you get down to teaching staff there is differences in teaching staff and don't think there aren't. We also know that in the management of public schools there are degrees of management in terms of how they are managed and in terms of policies, administrative management in the system. And we also know that there is a difference in curricula being offered in this state, a great difference in curriculum. There are some schools that have a minimal curriculum, and their children, of course, are the ones who suffer. That is one of the reasons this bill is here because there are a number of parents out there that realize that their young people are not getting the quality of education in terms of curriculum offerings that are being offered not too far away. I suggest to you that if this is going to be misused, there must be some schools out there that are not offering an appropriate curriculum or the parents wouldn't be willing to pay taxes where they now live and pay a high tuition to a school they want to get to. There is just no reason they would want to make this decision, but in many of those cases those people are captive within a system that is indeed inefficient, does not have much vision otherwise they would be offering the courses that the parent would have to prove is beneficial to their child. And I would remind you one more time, the parent who petitions must prove that there is a beneficial advantage to that child and the burden is on them.

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: And I would remind you one more time, the State Board of Education is a constitutional body. They look over the public schools of this state and why shouldn't