

there were nineteen votes to kill and only twenty-four votes not to kill, less than a majority, less than the twenty-five that are needed to move this bill to Final Reading. The hope here is that this language will satisfy those critics of the concept in 652 that there are sufficient standards to allow them to support the notion. I suppose this can then be attacked by opponents as some kind of act of bad faith that, in fact, they haven't told a lie, that they are caving in on their position. This, I think, would be the cruelest of all arguments. Apparently, having discussed this with some of my colleagues previously, the position should be that those who are out in support of LB 652 should be willing to draw lines which cannot be met for which political majorities cannot be found and then suffer the consequences so that they can remain conceptually pure. This is the last final measure of compromise that has been made by a group of people who want desperately to have their religious convictions exonerated by the state. Who has compromised at all in this bill? The school systems? No. The teachers? No. Those of you in this body who are opponents of 652? No. All the compromise have come from the other way and perhaps they have been justifiable and reasonable and this is the last of those but it seems to me that some place you have to deal with these people in good faith and this is an attempt to do so. Now I think it is unfair for Senator Hoagland to absolutely misrepresent LB 652 as he did in his closing in the previous motion to tell you there is no one in basements checking up on these children and their curriculum. If you will recall on General File curriculum standards equivalent to public schools are now in 652 it is an absolute misrepresentation to say that any different standards of curriculum approval exists between these kinds of schools and other private schools or other public schools. As far as state law is concerned, they are all equal under 652 as a part of the compromise that have been made under this bill. So let's not talk about lax curriculum standards because the curriculum standards are the same. With respect to the issue of certification which is the only question which is left, you either have to believe and honor the religious conviction these people have that teachers are ministers and that you may not certify the ministers of their religion or you have to say, I'm sorry, but we choose not to honor that religious conviction on the basis...

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Senator Clark. Either you have to honor that religious conviction or you do not and you have to fly in the face of it and overrule it by a legislative majority. Perhaps we're ready to do that. I am not.