

doctrine that I tried to announce earlier in talking about 652. Senator Chambers' argument is, if we see value in certification of one context, shouldn't we see it in all and in the reverse, if we do not see the value of certification in one context why should we impose it in all? I think that that simply belies our ability to make reasonable distinctions between factual settings. Now certainly there is a reasonable state interest in drafting soldiers in time of war and yet this nation even in those dire times understands the distinction between individuals and allows for a conscientious objector status and the distinction is the religious conviction of that individual and whether or not it is truly held. You simply can't say that one situation or one policy that is true or applicable in one context has to be seen as meritorious and applicable in all contexts. I'm glad that this amendment was offered because it allows me to state that I do not hold teachers in contempt. I do not hold certification in contempt. I believe in certification as a reasonable quality control measure. I'm looking forward to the chance to vote against this amendment but certification for those of us in the general public as a tool to see that our public schools are well run and well staffed should not be the sword with which we impose on an unwilling populace who hold a different religious conviction from our own and deny them the genuineness and the efficacy of those religious convictions. I am not willing to replace their perceptions of their religious dictates with my own as an individual or as a legislator. I support certification and I support it in all contexts other than those in which first, there is a genuine religious conviction to the contrary and second, where there is no evidence to show that the children of those parents would be better off with certification. I do not hold the same standard for myself. I don't have to have evidence for the value of certification. I believe that it is valuable and I believe it is reasonable and I send my children to schools where they are certified and I'm glad for that, but I am not willing to outweigh religious convictions without evidence in hand and that is what we are called to do under the current situation unless we make the reasonable attempt in 652 to alter the picture. I oppose the Chambers amendment and yield the remainder of the time which I have not used to the introducer of the amendment, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CLARK: All right, the question before the House is the adoption of the Chambers amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Senator Rumery, do you want the amendment read? All right, read the amendment.

CLERK: (Read Chambers amendment as found on page 1646 of the Legislative Journal.)