

their children what they feel, in their opinion, is a better opportunity in life and enhance their future, enhance their future. We can do this and add these things that are constructive to the bill. But, if we add things that restrict that choice by adding judicial things, such as Senator Lamb is talking about, we restrict those parents from offering their children what they feel are the best opportunities. This amendment by Senator Baack is a good one, because it does have those parents sit down and think what are these educational opportunities that are going to enhance my child's future. I think it should be added to the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT PRESIDING

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. Speaker, very briefly, just a comment on the Baack amendment. I think it is an improvement of the bill. And to comment on the exchange I heard between Senator Lamb's approach and Senator Baack's approach, I believe Senator Baack's approach is superior and it's probably too early in the debate to talk about gutting amendments and all of that kind of rhetoric that we get into. But I believe to simply state a reason for student transfer is a good idea. It puts the resident district on notice as to what the deficiency, perceived deficiencies are in their program, gives them an opportunity to improve upon those, particularly if there is more than one student in this particular situation. And it says to the parent we don't want you to do it just for frivolous reasons, we don't want you to do it simply because you're mad at a teacher that made your daughter do more homework than you thought that she should. And I think merely having to state the reasons in writing will forestall a lot of those. But to take it a step further and say that the two districts have to agree to the transfer, basically does take the idea of parent choice out of this. It then becomes school district choice. It really isn't that different than what exists today. Today I think I could feel comfortable going down to talk to my superintendent and say, Roger Miller, I think the Papillion School District is not meeting the needs of my daughter for A, B, C reasons, and I would like to see my child enrolled in a school in Bellevue where I think those...give you a little equal time, Senator Hartnett, where I think those programs are available, and ask him if he would agree to send my daughter there, and ask Dick Triplet, over in Bellevue if he'd agree to accept my daughter.