

your Legislature. Thank you. We appreciate your being with us this morning. Also a very special announcement. This is a red letter day in the life of Senator Glenn Goodrich. Senator Goodrich, happy birthday. Incidentally, cake will soon be served to the members, compliments of Senator Goodrich. Proceeding to discussion on the Baack amendment, Senator Lamb, followed by Senators Withem and McFarland. (Gavel.) Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, members, I seriously object to page 2, most of page 2, from line 3 through line 21. Five percent of the students are going to be able to transfer to another school. Which 5 percent? Which 5 percent? Is it the 5 percent that has a real reason to go? Is it the first 5 percent that applies? What 5 percent is it? Which 5...you know it's...you know what we really need on this bill is instead of a dozen amendments to the bill on the floor of the Legislature, amendments that we have not seen before they came here, what we need is an interim study on this bill. If you lose 5 percent of the kids out of some of these schools, you've wrecked the school. This is backdoor school consolidation when you allow that to happen, with no reason, no reason other than the student says I want to go. He has to write out that reason. It could be I don't like my English teacher, that's a reason. That's a reason for transferring, right, you got that. He says it's a good reason. I don't know if it is or not. I don't think so. Five percent of the students will be able to transfer out of this district, and the money goes with them. And what does that do with the students that are left? What does that do to those students that cannot afford the transportation over to the other district? This is supposed to be an education bill. We're looking at educational opportunities for all students, not just that elitist few that can afford and will transfer to another district. I ask you to look at this bill. This bill has some potential, but these amendments are not putting it in the shape that it should be. We need an interim study on this, then we need a phase-in program. I agree that some students should be able to go to another school where they can fully utilize their talents. This bill does not do that. This bill allows, I don't know, is it the first 5 percent, or the last 5 percent that apply? Is it the 5 percent with the best reason for going to another school, or the worst reason, or what? It's not defined in this bill. It absolutely is unfair, it's unworkable, and it is not the way it should be done. Going slow, certainly. Going slow, certainly. Have an interim study.