

for the school board, would do the things that are necessary to make that a good district, rather than turning tail and running, but I can't stop that. What this bill does in its present form is make the situation worse. There is another category of people who will be doing the same thing because they don't want to stay there and try to make that district better. They want to go and they don't have a good reason to go. They don't have to have a good reason. It can be a frivolous reason. They do have to have a reason but it doesn't have to be a good reason, and so arbitrarily we are saying in this part of the amendment that 5 percent can go, 6 percent cannot go. Now Senator Baack says I am an advocate of local control and that is correct, but I am not being inconsistent here as I see it. I am not talking about doing away with local control. I am talking about keeping local control. I am talking about letting the local district decide if there is a good reason to go. Somehow there has to be a good reason before these students can transfer out. This amendment does not allow it. It just says that an arbitrary number of students can leave without a good reason and that is not good for the educational system in this state. Sure, they say, well, we are going to hold you hostage. We are going to hold that district hostage. That is a hollow argument, in my opinion. Holding that district hostage in that if I don't like the English teacher, I am going to leave and so you fire the English teacher or else I will leave. Now if that is a good reason for leaving and that could very well be the reason, because there is no criteria set up in the bill as to what constitutes a reason for leaving. So this part of it sets up a process where 5 percent can leave, 10 percent can leave. Then after that, any number can leave. So I just don't think this is the way to go. I think this bill, as I stated before, does have some merit, but we are not able to draft the sort of bill that is needed on the floor of the Legislature, and that is what we are trying to do here today is draft a comprehensive bill on the floor of the Legislature. Senator Baack had all these amendments that came in, but they are not even in the Journal. They are not in the Journal. People don't really know what they are. They have not had time to correlate them with the green copy. So I am saying this is the one that we should not adopt. This part of this amendment should not be adopted here today. It is not a good amendment. I ask you to vote red, and I am going to vote red for the first time today on this bill, on this part of this amendment, because it is not good for education in the state.