

What Senator Baack is doing in this particular section is saying, we understand that change takes some time, that you have to work with it and deal with it, and that is what this section will do. It will phase the program in over a four-year period, and after that four-year phase-in period of which we are working with it year after year and working with whatever problems begin to develop, the program will be a very good, positive program. Again, I would like to almost support Senator Baack's... Senator Lamb's amendment simply so we could get it phased in right away. I am that convinced that the program of choice will be such a valuable education tool, but I am going to refrain from my eagerness and say I think Senator Lamb is correct, that we need to have a phase-in program where we can look, where people can get used to working with it, and will learn not to be afraid of something that they need not be afraid about. A couple of points also Senator Lamb made that I would like to comment on, and maybe not even so much because of Senator Lamb's comments. Number one, why would people opt to choose, to go to another district? I hear all the bizarre, 1 percent or less, circumstances brought in. Well, what if we have a seven footer who can run the 40 in 4.0 and what if we have a handicapped and this, and this, and that, and what if this and what if that. We find a particular situation that we want to pull out of all the morass of possibilities and throw those out. I, personally, believe that parents in this state understand what a good education is for their children, and I, personally, think here are some of the reasons parents may opt to choose another district. It may be that their son or daughter, for what various reasons, has gone into a school system and got into the wrong crowd, is in a group of people that is driving their son or daughter into areas of behavior and attitudes that is not good for their child, and they can see that happening, and they can't break that environment because they are forced to be in that school district.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: And so they choose to go elsewhere, and that child is broken of that routine and the child does better. I can see a child who may have become pregnant and there is a stigma within that school that she is not able to overcome, nor those that are around her, and the parents choose to go to a different district to help their child start a new environment, a clean slate, and the child does better. I can see parents looking at a program and saying our child has a