

gifted area here and we would like to see our daughter or son get a better education over here and we choose to do so. Who are we to say that those are not valid decisions to be made by parents, and the point is, we are not to say. It was never our intent to have a legislature of the state say. It has always been our intent that the people of the State of Nebraska, i.e., you and I as parents, can decide what is in the best interest of our school district.

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: And I hope to say a few words more about the bill as the bill progresses. I hope we do not support the amendment to delete the sections of this amendment 501. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Withem, followed by Senator McFarland, then Senator Lamb. Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: I would call the question.

PRESIDENT: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

PRESIDENT: Debate has ceased. Senator Baack, did you wish to close, please.

SENATOR BAACK: Yes. Mr. President and members, just a very brief closing. I think what this does is it does give us an opportunity to look at the program. This slowly phases this program in. It is slower than it is going to be phased in in Iowa. It is a phase-in program that takes just about the exact same number of years as the phase-in in Minnesota. It looks a little bit different because there is some different numbers in there, but it is the same kind of idea that we are seeing in Minnesota as they phase it in. People have this image of thousands of students across this state changing school districts with this bill. That is absolutely absurd. We are going to see very, very few students change school districts with this thing. In Minnesota, they have 710,000 students. This year they have 453 that are involved in the choice enrollment option. That is not very many, and if we equate that