

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Philosophically, I think the Lamb amendment does not coincide with what is trying to be done on LB 183, though I certainly understand the good intention behind it. Philosophically, if I, as a parent, decide that I want to choose to opt to another district because of an educational lack that I have in my district, in other words, I choose not to go to my district and a lot of other parents have done the same, what happens is in the intent of 183 is the school district begins asking itself, why? Why did the Bernard-Stevens's and other people within our district, why did they leave? What was wrong? And in the upcoming semesters and with the upcoming year, they reevaluate, they relook at their system, they relook at their curriculum, then they say, you know, we did have a problem there. We see there was a problem there and we corrected those problems. I can't imagine any...well, I shouldn't say that, I have difficulty imagining any parent, who has opted to go to another district and accepting all the problems of transportation that that would occur, to all of a sudden a year or two years later find that the problems that they had in their district have now been corrected, I can't imagine too many people who would say, I would not want to go back to my home district, my home residence, being close to my home where my child may be able to walk to school, or walk home from school, or we can walk over to the baby sitters, or we have the day care, whatever, we may be talking about here, they would much rather be at home if the system was improved. What Senator Lamb's amendment would actually say is that once you have chosen to leave, once you have opted to leave your district, even if the district changes its program so as to provide a better education, you can't come back for four years, and if you are in a high school, that eliminates it. That eliminates it. And to me, that doesn't philosophically jibe with what we are trying to do. We are trying to say resident districts that students opt out need to evaluate and improve, and if so, certainly the reason they are going to do that is that their residents may want to come back, and this could cause some problems in that particular area. The second point I would like to make is concerning administrators' problems of enrollment. Most of us in here have not been involved with curriculum or planning of the number of courses to have and how many students we are going to have and how many teachers we need based on enrollments, and those numbers are difficult, but don't be fooled, people, that this 183 or these amendments will make this so difficult that we