

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Mr. President, members of the body, just very briefly, this is one of the amendments that I really have no problem in supporting. I think it's a policy decision. I think Senator Baack may be talking about it a little bit later of what we as the body want to set, whether it's 90 days, a year, life or whatever we want to do on that and I think the choice really is between 90 days and a year. I just want to throw out one philosophical point I'd hope the body would keep in mind. I know in the body in the State of Nebraska there is concern about recruitment and...of course, there is and there is recruiting going on today. I think we'd all recognize that and there will be recruiting going on tomorrow and forever because that's one of the emphasis that we have unfortunately in many of our school systems, but while we are concerned with the top athletes, the one or two percentage of those people that may be opting. One of the things I hope the body also considers is that when you set this policy, whether it be 90 days or a year or more than a year, you're also affecting students who may not be good in athletics necessarily. You're also affecting people who would like to participate that may not be the star, but because they have opted for a better educational reason or for a personal reason that their family deemed it necessary to choose to leave and go elsewhere if they are accepted, you're also banning that student from participating as well. And I think one of the things that we need to look at as a body is the thing that Senator Sam Erwin said years ago when they had many laws about trying to catch this criminal and that criminal and the point that he made is sometimes you have to let a few of the criminals go in order to protect the rights of the majority. And I wonder sometimes, as a body we're so concerned about stopping the few from making a poor decision on who to take because of recruitment and at the same time we take away the ability of other students who are just plain ordinary good people and take their right away from participating as well. And I think as we debate this issue and get to vote on it, hopefully relatively soon, that we at least keep those points in mind as we're voting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Baack.

SENATOR BAACK: Mr. Speaker and members, I...you know, I don't rise in opposition to this. The bill was originally written with one year in it. That's the way that I wrote the bill originally. When it came to the attention of the School Activities Association they came to me and said, we would prefer