

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. What this amendment does, has been passed out to you all, it has the Education Committee studies this issue this summer or in the interim. This issue has not been discussed statewide and I think that it needs to be. Whenever you have a major shift of education like we are having here, it needs to be studied statewide and this would do that. This new concept is going across the whole nation. We also need to have it studied in Nebraska. We cannot have something this important without having it out statewide, having the small schools, the rural schools, the large schools, have everybody giving some input. I don't think that a lot of schools realize what we were getting into at the hearing we had down here and I think that by having these hearings outstate and having the Education Committee having these hearings that everybody outstate will have a chance to come in to give their views so that we can get whether it is good or bad. Right now, I don't think we really know how it is going to affect Nebraska. Until we have these hearings, we really don't know. So what this amendment does, all it...it just says that the Education Committee will conduct these hearings. It doesn't say that we have to stop the bill or we have to move the bill or do anything. It just says we will have these hearings. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the Schellpeper amendment, Senator Rod Johnson, followed by Senators Withem and Coordsen.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members, I would rise to support Senator Schellpeper's motion today. I think there are a lot of questions in the minds of those within education as to how this bill will impact the future of Nebraska. I think the discussion of the necessary funding for our school districts and the funding that follows the student if he or she transfers outside of the district is a very important issue that has very limited debate so far on this issue and for those of us who don't serve on the Education Committee, it's important that we find out what that funding level is going to be. I think the issue of transportation is very important to this issue, how these students will be moved from one district to another, especially those who live in rural areas of the state who may need to get to their points of transportation to be transferred to a new school district. The discussion of athletic recruiting has already come up and I won't cover that again, but I think it brings up the point that we need to move slowly in this area. I