

a fair amount of work and it would be something that I think we should be doing. I'm supporting Senator Schellpeper's amendment. I think it also is consistent with what I sense the will of the body at this point. On one hand, I sense a majority of people in the body by the votes we've had so far are willing to go with the choice concept. On the other hand, there is, as Senator Rod Johnson just indicated and Senator Schellpeper has indicated, some nagging doubts that remind is exactly how the specifics of it will work. The way the bill is written now we have a, first of all, as I understand, nothing will happen for next school year, is that right, Senator Baack? The year after that we have an opportunity for, with mutual consent, of two school districts for students to transfer so we have basically two years before anything major will happen. During those two years we can be looking at the specifics in making any adjustments in the statutes that may need to be made, but what is important with this amendment, we are going to commit ourselves as a body to the concept of choice. And very, very few people have stood here on the floor and said that the concept of choice is bad and ought to be rejected. We hear a lot of things about well, will this work, won't that work? We can commit ourselves to the concept and use the next year or two years to continue to bring back refinements in this bill. I think it's a good amendment and I appreciate Senator Schellpeper's offering it. If I have any time left I'd like to give it to Senator Baack.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Baack.

SENATOR BAACK: How much time do I have, Mr. Speaker?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Approximately three minutes.

SENATOR BAACK: Oh, that's plenty. I also rise to support the amendment because I have been working on this thing for, you know, two and a half years trying to iron out some of the details and working with people and trying to work out some of the things as we go and I'm willing to continue to do that. I'm willing to dedicate my time to continue doing that and I have...there is no doubt in my mind that we can take this issue out across the state and we're going to find wide acceptance across the state for the idea of parental choice, so I have no fears as far as that goes. All this amendment does is it adds to it a committee study of this issue for the next couple of years. Until we have even any involuntary movement would be a