

SENATOR NELSON: I hate to call for a call of the house on a simple amendment. Just let the folks go ahead and vote and whatever their desires are but I wish they would please vote. Otherwise, I will have to maybe call for a call of the house.

PRESIDENT: Please vote if you care to. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 13 ayes, 10 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: The amendment fails. Do you have anything further on it, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Okay, Senator Withem, on the advancement of the bill.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah, Mr. President, just a comment, before actually moving the advancement of the bill. Senator LaVon Crosby made some excellent points I think about the word "ethnic", and that humans are insensitive to other human beings based on things other than ethnic origin. We still have unfortunately religious prejudice. We still have sexual prejudice where males are treated differently, sometimes more favorably, sometimes less favorably, than females based only on their sex. Things other than ethnicity lead to this. My earlier comments, before she convinced me otherwise about the word "ethnic" being a better word, were based on some concerns that somehow some people out there are thinking this bill does more than it actually does, that it mandates the teaching of certain things to our children, and that groups, such as those advancing homosexual rights might be coming in and demanding that their lifestyle be taught in the classroom. That is not what this bill is about. That is not what this bill does. Hopefully, that statement of intent is enough to clarify that. I think Senator Nelson had some other good things in her amendment. I am sorry the other things were not adopted, and they probably should be, so I would encourage her, Senator Crosby, Senator Hall and me, I guess, to talk between now and Select File to see if we can take the good things out of her amendment and, if the word "pluralistic" is the best word we can come up with, fine, and there may be another word out there that does the same thing that doesn't raise some red flags that other people unfortunately thought that it raised. With that, I think