

accommodate their needs and their desires in this bill. That will not stop. If we pass the bill, that will not stop, I will continue to be accommodating, and I will continue to work with those people. All this does is delay it one more year of implementation. I don't think we need that extra year. I think we have enough safeguards built in with the slow process that we have that we can deal with this bill in that period of time, and we can make the study, we can have all the results that we need, we'll know what effect it's going to have, and we can make any changes that we need to make, if it's going to cause any problems. So, with that, I would just urge you to reject this amendment of Senator Hefner's. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Withem, please, followed by Senator Coordsen, then Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body, I would also rise in opposition to the Hefner amendment. I'd remind the body what we did on General File with this bill. We took a bill that may conceivably have been moving too quickly the way it came out of committee. And Senator Baack has worked with opponents and proponents and folks that are neutral on this bill and considered all of their comments, their views. What we have now is a very slow, measured, deliberate attempt to phase this bill in. We're doing a study that Senator Schellpeper has requested. We are saying the first year no district has to release any students, if they don't want to; the second year only have to release 5 percent of their students; the third year only 10 percent of their students; and, finally, in the fourth year it goes into effect. I used the analogy on General File that I didn't particularly like all of that phase-in that we currently have in the bill. If you have a child that's a ninth grader that is in an inappropriate educational experience for that child, the student is going to graduate from high school before this bill even goes into effect the way it is now. Absolutely no good policy rationale for waiting one additional year. It adds absolutely nothing to the bill. I doubt seriously if it adds any support to the bill. I would not be terribly...I would be shocked if I'd see Senator Hefner's light flash green on Final Reading on this bill if this amendment were adopted. It really doesn't add any strength to the bill or bring any support to the bill. What Senator Hefner says he's attempting to accomplish with this bill to provide slow, deliberate phase in is already there. This is slow and deliberate as any major piece of legislation I've ever seen that