

this body advance. The Hefner amendment adds absolutely nothing to the bill.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Coordsen, please.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I rise to support the Hefner amendment. We've heard comments made about Minnesota. We've heard comments made recently about Iowa's action. I'd remind the body that we're not passing laws for the State of Minnesota, we're not passing bills to govern the people of the State of Nebraska. We are enacting legislation that impacts upon...back up a minute, we're not passing for the people of Iowa, but we are impacting what happens in the State of Nebraska. I can't honestly say that I'm opposed to the concept of choice as presented in this bill. But I do think that the further delay in implementation would give us a far better chance of developing the information base that we need in this body to make a sound, rational decision on how that will impact the State of Nebraska. We should realize that while this impacts not only the largest school district, and we don't know how that will impact that, how many people might elect to move their children from a large classroom setting to a small classroom setting, but Nebraska has a preponderance of small high schools scattered throughout the state for reasons that seem to meet with general public support. The passage of this bill, on the surface, could conceivably put the parents of the State of Nebraska in the smaller schools in control of the actions of the school governing bodies, be they the boards or the administrators, simply by threatening as a block group to transfer their students to...their children to another school. We don't know this. I don't know this. We've heard a number of personal opinions as to the effect of this bill, strictly that, personal opinions, because none of us, proponents, opponents, know with any degree of certainty what might happen in a unique situation here in Nebraska. So one more year delay, beyond that that is currently provided by the amendments that we've adopted, is certainly not an irrational approach to an issue as serious as choice for the parents in where their children attend school. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Wehrbein, please, followed by Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. President, members, this amendment too puts me in a dilemma. I have been supporting the concept of