

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR WITHEM: ...because then the term Jew was a pejorative sort of term, that those were different sorts of people. Some of the most cruel criticism and discrimination is based on religious differences. And I guess I should also point out that during the time I was teaching there, there were a number of students who came with very strong Fundamentalist beliefs, who carried Bibles with them, who used their time in free time to talk to other students about their religion. Again those students were ostracized, they were made fun of. We need teachers in our system that can deal with prejudice, not teach about religion, not teach about alternate lifestyles, not teach about ethnic groups, but can deal with students of all different backgrounds and knows how to deal, when these students from these various backgrounds come into their classroom, can deal with these differences, and have the human skills in dealing with the situation, particularly in this area of religion where we have more and more people from various religious backgrounds coming into our schools,...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time.

SENATOR WITHEM: ...Asian backgrounds....

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time

SENATOR WITHEM: Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I would just echo Senator Withem's comments. The issue here, and I would stand in opposition to Senator Beck's amendment, and I do appreciate the fact that it is offered in good faith on her part, but the issue here is a decision that was made by the Education Committee to use the term "pluralistic", and that term is more encompassing than the amendment that Senator Beck has before us that deals with the issue of strictly racial and ethnic groups. And I think Senator Withem's comments about first hand experience that he had lets you know clearly that we need to leave this I think as open and as far-reaching as possible because this bill deals with the training of teachers, and the misconception that he spoke of that I think most of the