

real in the bill. The bill did not do those sorts of things, even in it's current state. However, the fact that it does not necessarily do those things, the fact that some people have read it to believe that it might infringe on privacy and impact on home schoolers and those other sorts of things doesn't make those concerns any less real. These are sincere individuals in our state who have sincere concerns and then they deserve to be heard and I think they have been, because what we're doing is we're adopting...I am suggesting we adopt some amendments to the bill that do the following things. Number one, there was a concern about confidentiality and privacy in LB 744. This amendment, on page 2269, will provide that no data will be collected on individual students. The way it will operate, even the testing portion of this bill, the students will...that are taking a test, and I point out that it's voluntary that they subject themselves to this test, and their parents can opt them out of it, but if they do, their names will not appear on the paper and even when the teacher picks up the papers the teacher won't know which papers belong to which students. There will be no individual student data collected. Further, the amendments provide that all data will be subject to applicable state and federal privacy laws. State and federal privacy laws are very specific in this area, not allowing any of this information to be collected and reported on individual students. The second part of the amendment is that schools that this Legislature has chosen to exempt, it gives certain exemptions from state accreditation requirements, will not be subjected...we will not use this bill, LB 744, to backdoor those procedures that were established several years ago. I mean, those procedures that were on the books will stay on the books and there are some things that home schools and nonaccredited private schools, religious schools, are expected to do. This amendment does not lessen any of those but what this says is this bill cannot be used to increase, to put any new restrictions on the operation of the Rule 13 schools. Point three indicates that the data that we collect will be on academic performance of students. There were some concerns that the NAEP, the National Association of...National Assessment of Education Progress test will be collecting a lot of personal information about students, about their...their religious beliefs, about their...their values, their parents' values, all of those types of things. This amendment stipulates that it will be academic performance that we are testing, not gathering lots of personal data about young people. Finally, this was a concern brought to us by Senator Beck that some language in the bill, the way it is currently