

living form. And anyway since you mentioned that issue of the mortality, I'm kind of wondering how we're going to...how we are going to address these philosophies because there is always that shadow over the classroom, and you and I both know it as having been teachers, of the division of church and state. Now, see, I would almost be afraid if I were in the health curriculum and were to teach on some of these things that I could really bring something down on that local school district that might, you know, like our own Westside in Omaha, end up in the Supreme Court. And I just wonder what is your desire or I know you thought this bill through, it's very well done and I congratulate you on your intent and the scope, but what do you foresee as how we handle that? And that's...I just wanted to bring that question to you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Did you want me to try to answer the question?

SENATOR BECK: Right. Yes, if you would, please.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Beck, I do appreciate what you are conveying to me and, believe me, this is a concern of mine as well. But what I understand is happening is that school districts are already having to confront these issues of death and dying. Every time a child loses a pet, for instance, or when a classmate is killed in an automobile accident, or when another teenager takes his or her own life, these are things that schools are already being called upon to answer. And what this bill would attempt to do is to provide more resources for these classroom teachers and these guidance counselors and to better equip them. I mean, I wouldn't presume to teach a death and dying class unless I had had some kind of further instruction on how...I mean, I have already gotten myself into trouble here on this floor this morning. I would not presume to go ahead and go into a classroom. I think that we have to remember that the local school district will oversee all of this and that it will require a great deal of public and community involvement and I would like to speak to that issue at a later time, but I won't take up any more of your time now.

SENATOR BECK: Thank you, Senator Schimek, I appreciate your answer. And I will have to say though that I do still have questions about how this then would be developed in the rules and regs and this kind of thing and it will be on my mind in