

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Chambers is announcing two guests under our south balcony, Robert Bishop and his wife, Donna, from Grant, Nebraska. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Thank you. Welcome to the Legislature. Also, while the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and I do sign LR 266, LR 269, LR 270, LR 272, and LR 273. Additional discussion on the amendments, Senators Bernard-Stevens, Hall and Langford. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members of the body, I would like to just put maybe a little bit of my thinking, at least, on this particular amendment in perspective, if I can. If I understand the amendment right, and, Senator Warner, I'm not really asking a question, but if I don't, I hope that you will correct me on it. If I understand the amendment correctly, the body will still be, even if we agree with the amendment, Senator Warner's amendment to the amendment, we will still, at the end, vote on 239CA as an entire package. So we're not going to separate the two issues out on separate votes here in the body but we would separate it out on the constitutional side when the people vote on it on the constitutional amendment. And Senator Warner is shaking his head that I am correct on that particular portion. So, I guess, really in perspective what we're, in essence, discussing on the body today is not whether or not it will have an effect on the vote in the Legislature because we still will vote for it as a package even with this amendment, but will the student voting portion of 239CA have an effect on the overall passage of the bill, of the constitutional amendment, when it goes to a statewide vote if it would, obviously, pass muster from the Governor and from the Legislature? And if that...if that is, in fact, the issue, then I think members of the body simply need to ask themselves, is that the major focus of what 239...is that the major focus of the debate that will take place on 239 when we get it out among the public? And I think the answer to that is, obviously, no. The main focus is going to be, do we want to take away the state college board? Do we want to have an expanded super board? Do we want to have more power in other areas on some of the board of trustees? Do we want to make the changes that we need to do? That will be where the major discussion will take place. I guess my personal feeling is that if the only thing people have to argue about is whether the students have a right to vote or not, and that will, in fact, bring the bill down, I would