

some students who at college level aren't able to vote. They aren't even able to vote for their representative of the Board of Regents because they haven't reached that age, but yet we're not going to give them representation that allows them to vote on the Board of Regents. I think that this is something...and I appreciate the fact the committee put it in the amendments, but I think that this is something that should be voted on as a part of LR 239. LR 239 is brought to the Legislature as a package to revamp postsecondary education. There has been an inequity that has permeated the way the Regents, the Board of Regents have dealt with students and student representation on that board for a number of years. The committee amendments would allow that inequity to go away. It would say, yeah, we do feel that this special group of people, the students, deserve voting privileges on the board on decisions that affect them and affect the institution. Senator Warner's amendment, I think, is very forthrightly put forth but would again allow for that distinction to be made. He would separate it out and have it voted on separately. And I think when you take an issue such as LR 239 does, one of the magnitude that it is, and you make all these massive changes to the postsecondary system, which I tend to agree with and I tend to agree with the way the committee amendments came out, including the voting Regent, but yet you separate this out and say this one distinct change should be voted on separately because it had never been that way before. I don't think that that is a fair way to deal with this.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: I think the issue before us, as LR 230...39 stands with the committee amendments is one that says we have recognized that there has been an injustice in the past, the way we have treated the student Regent. We don't think that that should continue. We think that they ought to have as much say in how they're governed, because, ladies and gentlemen, if they weren't there, there would be no reason to have a Board of Regents. They're the clients. We trip over ourselves in this body when we put together a board, when we put together a committee, or any group that's going to have the say over some...or make recommendations to this Legislature to make sure every aspect or every profession is represented, but yet we're not going to let...and we give them voting rights, we let them send us recommendations that most of the time we just adopt. But in this case the people who actually pay the freight, much of it anyway, and who are the clients of that institution or