

by the Governor, and I would argue that the fact that we currently have a student Regent who is a nonvoting member would be probably the historic precedent that shows that you would never have a student appointed to the Board of Regents. I mean, there is nothing that prohibits a student from being appointed to any open position or any appointed board or commission, any appointed political office, for that matter, that should be vacant while the Governor is presiding. But what happens? I mean, you don't see that take place, nor would you see it take place in an appointed Board of Regents. There is nothing magical about being elected to a position, whether it be elected office to be a policymaker or any other type of elected office, one that is administrative or executive. That doesn't guarantee that an individual has the expertise, the background or the brains to handle that position. That's one of the reasons I have always supported an appointed Board of Regents because I don't have any problem with the Governor having the ability to designate those individuals who they think should be making those decisions, in this case for our institutions of higher education. Nor do I have any problem with allowing a student representative to vote on those issues that affect those same institutions. To separate these two out continues that double standard that we recognize and we try to fix partly by saying we're going to let students be on here but not as a voting member. They're going to be ex officio in everything that they do. They can come. We will coddle them. We will rub their head, as someone said earlier, and tell them they did a good job but we'll let them introduce resolutions, but we won't let them deal with the nuts and bolts that affects the institution and affects them. The fact of the matter is that that isn't fair. You don't have an elected board anymore if LR 239 should pass. You have an appointed board and you ought to have a student on there that votes. The argument, as Senator Warner clearly pointed out, goes away although he wants to have these two voted on separately. I don't think you should do that. I think LR 239 is a complete overhaul of our postsecondary education. We have had an inequity that's been in place for a number of years. We need to correct that. Committee amendments do that. I think the committee rightly made that change and offered it as part of LR 239 to be adopted. What we'll do here by adopting Senator Warner's amendment, whether it passes or fails on the ballot, should it get there, we will continue that discrimination because I would call it discrimination. It clearly falls in that category of separating one class of people out and making them totally different from another, because not