

now, it's the way we want to go. If the body does want to do so, we should have at least somebody up there that is going to, at least unbiasedly, look at the information and give us a report so then we can analyze it. That's the nature of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hall, you're next, followed by Senator Warner and Senator Wesely, but may I introduce some guests in the south balcony of Senator Hannibal. He has 50 fourth graders from the Cottonwood Elementary School in Omaha with their teacher. Would you folks please stand and be recognized by the Legislature? Thank you all for visiting us today. Senator Hall, please.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise to oppose Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment. The issue in his amendment is adding a half-time person to the, I'm taking it to be the Legislative Fiscal Office, is that correct, Senator Stevens? Okay. I rise to oppose that purely on the basis that he has said the reason for it is to have them give us some objective understanding of the information that the Department of Revenue would then submit to this individual who is going to be a part-time employee, I guess. At that point in time then the information of then I guess this part-time employee would impart to the Legislature would be taken as gospel because then once you read it, I guess it would be not open to debate, interpretation or any kind of thought process on the part of the members of the Legislature. To me, the amendment clearly is nothing more than a tactic to keep us from getting down to the agenda and I don't have any problem dealing with that. The issue of whether or not the department or the Fiscal Office or anyone needed staff I think would have been addressed at the time that the bill was introduced. It would have been addressed at the time we had a committee hearing. It would have been addressed in a fiscal note. None of those are true. The issue here is one of let's just waste a little time and let's waste it on an issue, 775, that every once in a while tends to get people churned up, tends to get the blood flowing and people look at this as a hot issue. Well, to be quite honest with you, this is a very, very mild issue in terms of 775 as that goes. It clearly is nothing more than expanding the report that we currently get, and what you've got now is you've got the chamber and the folks who have traditionally fought some of these kinds of things recognizing the fact that they need to endorse the concept that Senator Wesely has now put into LB 431 and they are