

SENATOR SCHROCK: Well, I think that would be a good solution to the problem, but I think the north end of Farnum would probably drift off to another district. The west end would then drift off and...

SENATOR ROBINSON: You mean they couldn't get the vote to consolidate is what you are saying?

SENATOR SCHROCK: That's correct.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Well, I feel like Senator Withem. I think this is a major change in policy as far as the size of school is concerned and I will not support the amendment.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Mr. President and members of the body, I am on this amendment with Senator Schrock and I guess that I go back somewhat to the same situation as Senator Withem talked about. I think there were 22 members in my graduating class and we had some of the basic sciences that he talked about. I look on those classes as being well taught, well represented and I think that we had a privilege really in the fact that we had somewhat of a one-on-one situation with our instructors. We had a lot of personal attention and I don't look on those small classes as being detrimental. As a matter of fact, I think they were very beneficial. When we had a problem we ready access to some help and I think that when we began the co-opting measure in this state that we did it with that purpose in mind, to provide educational facilities for people in the rural area of our state where distances were a little bit farther and population was decreasing. So I guess that I'm going to, quite frankly, I'm supporting this piece of legislation, this amendment, because I think that it does provide us with options in rural Nebraska that we otherwise don't have and it may keep some communities viable and I think that's what we're all about is keeping viability among our students and among our state, so I would urge your support of this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Baack.

SPEAKER BAACK: Yes, Mr. Chairman and colleagues, I rise in opposition to this amendment. I tend to...you know, I want to keep our small communities viable and stuff in the rural areas. That's definitely a laudable goal, but I don't think you do it