

involved in any partisan sort of operations at all, we don't concern ourselves with their party registration. And I think that may be a better model. I think, at this point, where we are looking at a three or four-member staff anyway, it's probably not really worthy of quibbling over at this point but, Senator Warner, I'm probably going to vote yes on your amendment, but those are some of my concerns about it. Give it a little thought, if you would, to the idea of making the commissioner of one party and the general counsel of another as another option or some other way of balancing this because I have some of the same concerns Senator Schimek had of when you're hiring a person to be a staff person, placing a political party restrictions on whether you qualify for that position or not kind of bothers me a little bit. So just give a little thought to that, if you would. Otherwise, I think the Warner amendment is probably okay at this point. I may be coming back later on attempting to change that second portion somewhat.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Before we go to the next amendment to the amendment, I would like to introduce some guests of Senator Moore. We have 26 fourth graders from the St. John's Lutheran School in Seward, Nebraska, and they are in the south balcony. Would you please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thanks for being with us. Mr. Clerk, an amendment to the amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Schimek would move to amend Senator Warner's amendment by striking lines 16-20, on page 1, and lines 1 and 2; on page 2.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Mr. President and members of the body, what I am moving here essentially is to take out the provision about the staff and their political affiliation. I'm not saying that this shouldn't and couldn't be a concern, but I think enough questions have been raised on the floor that I, at this time at least, would not like to vote to put this in the bill. I'm not sure, given all the different components here, that we can write something that will fit the questions, but at least, at this point, I'd like to vote for the first part of the amendment if we could get rid of the second part. And so, unless anybody have any questions about what I'm trying to do here, I would just move that we attach this, or delete it.