

SENATOR WITHEM: ...in Omaha Public Schools, who don't have the opportunity to go to District 66. I think for that reason it does continue, and particularly because clarifying that if these parents want to continue to send their students to District 66 on a personal tuition...tuition point of view, that they continue to have the opportunity to do that. So I...it's a close call, and it's not probably the death knell of choice, or the death knell of desegregation or any of those other things. But I think of the two arguments I hear being presented, I think Senator Baack's argument is more compelling, and I will be voting with Senator Baack to return the bill to Select File.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Withem. I'll now recognize senators in the following order, Senator Nelson, Withem, Horgan, Schimek, and Robinson. Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Yes, would please Senator Horgan respond to a question.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Horgan.

SENATOR HORGAN: Yes.

SENATOR NELSON: Did I understand, and I missed the first of it, are these children with special needs?

SENATOR HORGAN: No, Senator Nelson. One of the children of one of the families is a special education student, but, no, they are not, as a class, they are not special need students.

SENATOR NELSON: In other words they just desire to attend Westside instead of OPS, correct?

SENATOR HORGAN: Correct.

SENATOR NELSON: I think I'll have to go with Senator Baack then. I hate to start, as Senator Withem very well explained it, then we become who can afford it and who can't, who likes what school and who doesn't in choice. So I believe I'll have to support Senator Baack's amendment. If they were children with special needs that could not be served, then I could see different, but...and of course there is a tra cost with children with special needs. But I would have to support Senator Baack then.