

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Madam President, members of the body, in Section 3 where the words annually have been inserted, we're doing something, and I want everyone to be sure to listen to this. We're doing something that is not done in any other curriculum area in the State of Nebraska at the present time. Let me tell you what...what is done now is you submit evidence of the curriculum. I support the concept of Senator Chambers' bill, but when a new curriculum is started you submit the evidence of the curriculum to the state department and then after that it's an annual check-off until you have your curriculum review by the state department and then you have to show evidence of it. If you can't show evidence of it, then your accreditation will be in trouble. What Senator Chambers wants to do on this bill is to have evidence submitted every year by three to 400 school districts. They will send all this material over to the state department and I presume someone will go through it and say whether it's good or bad. For sure, they cannot go out and visit every school. But my reasoning for putting it in, why do we put it in for this new change in curriculum and we don't do it for others? To me, it's wrong. I have no problem with the bill, but why do we treat this different than any other segment of our curriculum in our K-12 system? And I just...I think you should support my amendment because I don't believe...it does not belong, it does not belong in the bill and I would urge you to support my amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Robinson. Senator Chambers, do you wish to speak to this amendment?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, the first thing I want to say to be sure that it's in the record, the State Department of Education right now has a section, it's labeled the Equal Educational Opportunity Division or section and it is in place. It has the expertise and can help facilitate the implementation of LB 922. Senator Robinson raised an interesting point and it goes to the whole question of the need for a bill such as this. Were this type of material already included in the curriculum, we would not need the bill. This whole area, Senator Robinson, has been treated differently, kind of gingerly, not only by the schools but by the entire society. Corporations are just now coming to a realization that a tremendous pool of talent is not available for tapping because