

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Chambers, I have just been informed by the legal counsel of the Education Committee that your fear with it...there is no standard now about a number of things that could take place or violations before accreditation would be lost. The law now is if there is any of the checklist, if there are any violations, they cannot begin and/or end a school year without that violation being corrected or they will not be accredited. That is the process now that my amendment would incorporate. There could not be, according to the legal counsel, any violation without accreditation being revoked.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Why is it necessary to take this provision out of the statute as it exists now and adopt your amendment since, as I am telling you, I have had senators who have put programs into the Department of Education's hands who have not seen those programs implemented by the department as they should have? Why should I take this measure, which I see as more significant and important and crucial at this time than some of the other things, why should I leave it to that chancy set of circumstances?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator, I will take a minute and I put on my light so that if you need more time you'd be able to do so. In my judgment, Senator, what will happen is the way the bill is written now without my amendment, that which you fear will in fact, or could happen, and that is the following: Eight hundred or so school districts will each file, according to the bill now, every year their process of what they doing in multicultural education. There will probably be one, maybe two people, or one and one other half-time person looking at 800 and so districts specifically for multicultural education.

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Most people are doing so many more things that my judgment is what they will do is more a precursory look, say, yeah, they are doing it; no problem, it is fine. And you will not get the real evaluation audit to see if the districts are really doing it. I think in your way it would be more harmful, or less accurate, less of a chance that true training and education are occurring.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Bernard-Stevens, I am opposed to your amendment, but if the body adopts your amendment, suppose we