

Wish I could have been two places at one time and I'm going to vote to reconsider this measure so that...so that we will all have an opportunity to vote on 922 as to whether we want to see it passed or not.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Madam President and members. I urge the reconsideration. Those of you that didn't vote and those of you that possibly wanted to vote for the bill but have some concerns with it, I'd urge you to give the...bill a fair chance to be voted up or down. I have some concerns with it too. My schools have called me and they had some problems, but not enough to override my feeling that we need something like this. In Tecumseh we have a very large, very large Laotian population, Vietnamese, and Hispanic, and I'm on the Laotian task force of my church. We've got some potential problems in the future that really need to be addressed. There are problems now among the kids in the school, and a lot of those problems are generated at home. A lot of the things I hear some of the kids saying aren't natural for a child to learn in the regular course of day-to-day business at school. A lot of that is brought from home; but, the interaction is basically...basically takes place at school. And I think we need to do everything we can to smooth the road for those people to integrate into the community and yet maintain their identity. The Laotian culture is very unique and needs to be understood, understood by the children and understood by many of the parents that have problems and questions about why these people are all of a sudden, quote, invading, unquote, our community. They're very good citizens, work hard, and we need to do everything we can to make our children and their children grow up without having any concern as to how they would...how they will get along in the future. If we would leave them alone I think it would be natural. I think the mix would be natural; but, unfortunately some of our biases show through and are transferred onto our children. It's very important for a community like Tecumseh because the ratio is very high. I think in Tecumseh it'd probably blow any...any other city or town in Nebraska off the charts for the number of students for the size of the town. It's very important, in my opinion, overriding the concerns I have, and some of my school personnel have, that we support this bill to get it to base to start with the children to allow them to understand the differences and maybe overcome some of the biases that are being transferred from other people onto them.