

confidence because they know we have been in session since January, or at least if they don't know that now, I imagine that somebody will advise them. And, in fact, we've had representatives from the Department of Education already talking to them and asking what we might have to do, or what we maybe should do, so they know that we're in session, they know that we have the capacity to deal with this issue. I do not understand it and I do not understand the potential for this amendment being tied with two other amendments which I would ultimately disagree with, the alternative school notion and also the proposal to insert a word into the Student Disciplinary Act. The word that is sought to be inserted into the Student Disciplinary Act, in my opinion, is absolutely meaningless, and if it was inserted, a school board that chose not to sensibly administer the School Discipline Act would continue to act in an irrational and insensible way, as many of us believe a notable school district in the State of Nebraska has. If they want to do that, they will. And if they choose to interpret our words in nonsensical ways, they will. Now, the issue of alternative schools, and it's a little bit unusual, I think, as Senator Bernard-Stevens exactly hit the nail on the head, not only do we not know how alternative schools would work, we don't know how much they would cost, nor how they would be paid for, whether it's going to be school district money or state money. Now with those kinds of uncertainties, who, in this body, is going to take up in a serious fashion that kind of an amendment, except perhaps the sponsor. And Senator Chambers who is playfully raising his hand, I assume that Senator Chambers wishes to remain in session until July 1st, I'm not sure. But I wish to end the session before that and I think there are other matters we need to get to. Both of the proposed amendments are items that were discussed in the Education Committee, they have not yet found their way to the agenda in a normal fashion. The proposal that you have before you is something that we must do, in my opinion. We cannot risk the loss of dollars that is at stake. Now if we don't like the federal law, that's one thing, we can petition Congress to have it changed. And I'm assuming there are those amongst us who will write to our Congress...congressional representatives and tell them that we think it's silly and it's another one of the federal mandates that doesn't work, and maybe they'll change the federal law.

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: But we have been in that situation