

concerned about doing the best job they can do, that as much as they possibly can in trying to channel energy in a positive way and keep kids in a positive track rather than having them out of school and encouraging them then to see expulsion as a great big lever. And I'll tell you it even goes to the level of a teacher who continuously sends a child to the principal instead of dealing with the problem in the classroom. The most effective way to really effect change is for that consequence or punishment or approach to solving the problem happens there instead of getting in a pattern of sending kids out. Expulsion from school is just a more extreme version of that. I will be supporting the advancement of the bill as it has been amended. I think it's important. I don't remember when we got started thinking that kids that we don't have an easy time working with need to be somewhere else, whether we're talking special education or we're talking behavior problems, but I do believe that it's important that we look for all possible ways to keep kids on a positive track, that we can do all we can to keep them from bringing weapons to school and that when they do we look for appropriate consequences and alternatives rather than just expelling them and taking from them maybe the only influence in their life that is trying to channel them in a good direction. Thank you.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Senator McKenzie. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Lindsay, members of the body, each session I think senators learn a lot about the process and different things that happen. I just learned a good lesson. Never take a bite out of a sandwich with a hot pepper right before you're about ready to be asked to speak. It's not a good combination, so I just share that experience to the rest of the body. If I look like I'm sweating a lot that's because of that darned pepper. It was a good one, but anyway, Senator Bromm, I just wanted to kind of at least set the record straight on a couple things. The process that's been followed was an excellent process. You and I have differed on this issue over the years and will continue to differ. In the Legislature, we have, in essence, two rounds of real solid debate amendments and we can at times have a third round which is Final Reading. A lot of the bills after they are changed on General File they move on and a lot of times we'll move bills on knowing that they need to be fixed and you'll have groups of people that are interested try to get together, try to work out a compromise,