

the track here that, again, no public hearing, no issues, nothing's been voted on, but we're going to make some public policy changes because you feel...or maybe not you in particular in this particular amendment, but other members of the Education Committee feel that this is good public policy. So my concern is that...

SENATOR CROSBY: Time. Thank you, Senator Abboud. Senator McKenzie.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. If Senator Bernard-Stevens would yield to a question.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Bernard-Stevens, would you yield?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Certainly.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Senator Bernard-Stevens, I just want, for the record, clarifying a couple, a couple concerns that I think go along with, on the other side of this issue, what we would or would not be allowing schools to do. My question is, would changing this policy allow schools to selectively admit certain members of a family rather than what exists now? In other words, we want this sibling, but not that sibling because they're special education. We'll take this child, but we won't take that child because we know there's an additional cost. I just, I think we need to have that dialogue as well because it's a reality.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I agree. That's one of the major concerns I had, and I know you did, too, particularly on a special education task force. In my opinion, they could not make those decisions because only if a school district has said they are not taking option students in an area and they have a rationale that justifies that would they be able to say we're not taking a student regardless of what circumstances they may be in. If a school district has a special ed program and there is room available, because they have the process there, they cannot...they could, in theory, say no, but they would lose any type of appeal because they have to be able to show where they cannot accept the option students for, for space, or they don't have the room available.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Right. Thank you. And I wanted to be sure