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Legislature. As a member of the Education Committee and as it was stated earlier, we have spent numerous hours in discussion and as members we don't always agree on...on all of the aspects of what we are debating. But a couple things that I want to point out, that I believe in assessment the ultimate goal is to improve teaching and learning. The ultimate goal is not really to compare, but to improve on the local level how we can do a better job of teaching and how we can do a better job of learning. That should be the ultimate goal. I've changed actually my views on the one test. I believe that if we would go with using one test that eventually we would see teachers teaching to the test, and you probably have heard that statement before, and I think that's one of the reasons that, by using a multiple testing, that we again would be looking at improving learning and teaching. Also, I think it's been stated that one test will not provide all of the information that we need to look for in school improvement in the areas of teaching and learning. I also believe that it could be somewhat inconsistent in the fact that we have not mandated standards. We are encouraging the use of standards, but we are still allowing the local schools flexibility. And I think that in all of this discussion again I believe it's very important that we work together to continue to have Nebraska schools the best in the nation, but that our ultimate goal, again, should be to improve teaching and learning and not just comparing. I support the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Chris Peterson.

SENATOR C. PETERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, and I would just like to share a few thoughts about this and looking at then the AM0880 becoming the bill, LB 144. I think that the...some of the concerns I have Senator Beutler has touched on them as well as several other people, and I guess one of the concerns I have is that to me the important part of the bill is not so...or of the amendment is not so much what has been put in; it's what's been crossed. There seems to be somewhat of a change in the emphasis of actually what we're trying to address here. If you look at the...on page 1, line 22, the purposes of the assessment and reporting system, I sense a little bit of moving away from the evaluation of the student's ability and more towards how are we going to