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LB 513

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...your office? Members of the Legislature, I'm not going to support this bill. I have not been convinced that it is necessary. There are people always talking about unfunded mandates. And I think they overstate the case. But a mandate which mandates nothing while giving the appearance that it does is not something that I favor. When there is only one company that produces a vaccine, and the company testified for the bill and gave the rationale for the bill, it's clear that putting something like this before students is going to cause some of them to get the vaccination. And maybe there's nothing bad about that. But I think all of this stuff about an enrolled person shall be vaccinated, then you give the bases for nobody being vaccinated, makes a hoax of the bill. If information is what is wanted to be distributed, then put the information out there. And they could even put in the information the University of Nebraska Medical Center, or Creighton University Medical Center, or whatever they call themselves now, as places they could go for additional information. They can contact their own physician, if they have one, or a clinic, or somebody at the university if they need information on how to procure the vaccine. The information that Senator Bourne's amendment contained need not be put in statute. That could be included in the information. If that program already exists, it will be available for those students. Senator Bourne's amendment did not create such a program. It already is there. So I see no real reason for the bill. And I don't think Senator Byars has given a compelling argument for it. Giving the information I'm not quarreling with. We're not going to mandate vaccinations. We should not give the appearance of doing that. We should not through a statute put in anybody's hand a stick that can be used to imply that these students must get these vaccinations or they will be de-enrolled, or disenrolled. And it does not apply to all the students at the university. It applies only to those in student housing, a captive audience, those over whom the university already has some degree of coercive power. It wouldn't take too much to suggest that it would be advisable if they get this vaccination. And the state law could then be waved in front of them. They could even be told about the waiver. But there are many times people are told something, but there's a wink and a nod that goes along with it which makes it