

well-being of children irrespective of where they are. To adopt his amendment is to do a disservice to children. Not to adopt his amendment is not to affect in one iota the way that religious ministry is carried out. I urge your rejection of the Peterson amendment.

SENATOR KAHLE: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, I rise to oppose the Peterson amendment and the reason I do so has I think been adequately explained by Senator Johnson but I would simply point out one more time that those people who have been asking for a different method to provide education for children that are not preschool or day care age but for school age, that those people have not been objecting to any of the fire, safety and health requirements that are placed on all other schools in this state. So I guess I cannot see where there would be any objection from those same types of people to having those same types of provisions for fire, safety and health apply to preschool and day care. It just doesn't make sense to me that we say that it is important to us as a society that safety and health things are required for certain numbers of students in a day care or a preschool situation and we think that that is important as far as the children are concerned. Then if that is true, then it should be important to us no matter where those children are at and I don't believe that those people that operate, that might be a church, that operates that type of facility want to be accused of being in favor of not following fire, safety and health requirements. So I guess I cannot, if they are not afraid of it for their schools, they certainly shouldn't be afraid of it for their day care and preschools. I repeat, I oppose the Peterson amendment.

SENATOR KAHLE: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I also oppose Senator Peterson's amendment and if I have the wording correct, I think it says early childhood programs which are part of an organized religious minority. And this can go up to twelve years of age. So simply by hiding things behind a religious banner, all