

knives on the playground, but, today, that would be you'll be gone in a minute. So I think that I reject Senator Wickersham's approach to this, and I think that we can...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR HARTNETT: ...leave this in without...without harming or tying the hands of our school districts in the state.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Senator Hartnett, your light is next, do you wish to continue speaking? No. Senator Bernard-Stevens, your light is next.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President. members of the body. First, I would like to clarify a discussion that was taking place in a committee hearing last night I believe in Senator Lynch's office. Just for the record, I was not born in Lincoln. I was not raised in Lincoln. I am a country, not a country, I am a rural born and raised in Cozad, Nebraska...born in Gothenburg, grew up in Cozad, so I'm a haymaker at heart, always will be a haymaker at heart. So I hope that answers that debate question on where the...my origins and where I graduated and went to school. Be that as it may, I oppose the Wickersham amendment. In fact, I really appreciate Senator Bohlke and her staff sitting down with those of us that had concerns. My concerns really was in one word, the word "calendar" and the potential cost of alternative schools, but it was actually Senator Pirsch who kind of made me reevaluate that and talk about the number of student that we'll really be talking about, and there are not...we are not talking about a large number of students. We are not talking about every school district is going to have, and Senator Bohlke explained very well where the alternative programming can be very wide, widely diverse, and each school district can, basically, set up what's best for the child and best for their costs, so, if any at all at some point, so it really fits in a lot with what we are doing on criminal justice, in a way, on the juvenile justice side because we are trying to set individual things for the students in the community and others will be working as a part of that. So I oppose the Wickersham amendment, and I would give whatever time I have remaining, Senator Bohlke, miracles can happen, time remaining I give to Senator Schimek.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Schimek, there are three minutes left.