

comment on your particular amendment, Senator Bernard-Stevens. I know you have a deeply felt belief in that, having talked to your local school district and having...carrying out their philosophy on it. Those are my comments to the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Abboud. Before we continue, Senator Hillman announces that she has special guests today, as she describes "My main man and grandson, Trevor Hergenrader, and his friends, Ron Johns and Luke Johns, from Gering, Nebraska. They're sitting under the south balcony. Would you all like to stand and be welcomed by your Legislature and Senator Hillman. Thank you for being here today. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President. A couple of senators have asked me, Senator Robinson was just asking as well. And, again, I want to make clear, just remember...and Senator Abboud's discussion, I appreciate his thoughts, but we're talking two different things. You know this is a baseball amendment and he's talking in a soccer format. I mean we're just talking about two different things that aren't totally related to the amendment. And I appreciate that because certainly I've done that quite often. But the bill right now, the law right now again says that school districts do not have to take option students if they meet the following criteria, and that would be if they're full, if it would be that...you know, they'd have to hire more instructors, and they set those rationale. If somebody options into a school district and they said, no, we're not taking option students, the parents have a right to appeal that, and a school district has to defend its policy to see if they really are full or are they just trying to say we don't want any option students. So many people today try to option in and can't get in because they're full. That's the way it is now, with one exception. Anyone who had a child that was admitted, in whatever year, their children, their other children will automatically be admitted, whether the school district closes...is closed or not, they automatically will be admitted. So again, if you had a child that you tried to option into a school and the school said, I'm sorry, our elementary, we have a tremendous increase in elementary kids, we don't have any room in the elementary, but we have room in the high school. And they say, well, I'm sorry, my son's in elementary, so I cannot get in, or you would not be able to get your child in. Your neighbor, if they had someone already optioned in earlier