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It is superfluous, it is contrary to the notion of the separation of church and state, I don't think the Christain Science or any other religion ought to be given an umbrella of protection. Children need advocates, children need to be protected, if a man or a woman would like to starve to death, to show that they believe in whatever God they choose, that's fine, but the child is not in a position to make a decision about things like this, so others make this decision, and the only decision being made by the legislature today in rejecting this amendment is not a religious or an ethical decision, it is a legal one. A situation is being dealt with by this bill which needs correcting, that is the issue of child abuse. Maybe if I strongly believed in a religion, a voice could tell me, Ernie sacrifice your son to please God, and this has happened in the bible. A man who believed in God strongly was told to sacrifice his son, and he took him up to an altar, tied him down and was prepared to stab him to death, sacrificing him to please some God, who whispered to him in the night and then an angel is supposed to come and stayed his hand. Well whatever moral lesson that made is fine, but we are talking about real life now, real children, and this story does show that there are people who will go to great and even extreme lengths to satisfy whatever it is they know as God. I am not in favor of the legislature officially and formally putting this kind of a provision into the law. As far as the legislature is concerned, there is no God, as far as the legislature is concerned, there is no religion, as far as laws are concerned the relationships between people and between people and the Government are the issues to be concerned about. This has no place in the law of this state, I think it would be a mistake, to pass this provision. The bill deals with the protection and welfare of children, they must be protected from fanatics, they must be protected from atheists, they must be protected from Christains, from all types of people regardless of their label. Child abuse is such a terrible thing in this country, that they have us known as the child abuse syndrome. They have organizations called "Parents Anonymous", because some people have a compulsion they say, to torture and abuse their children. They burn them, they drown them, they strangle them, they beat them, they break their bones, they disfigure and mutilate them, I'm not saying Christain Science would do these things, but because of how vicious human beings have shown themselves to be to their own children, I would not say that they are incapable of these things. Let everybody be put in the same pot, and if they want to practice their religion, let them suffer the consequences if there are consequences to be born for placing a child in a position of jeopardy. I think you ought to reject the amendment.

SPEAKER: Senator Stahmer.

SENATOR STAHMER: Mr. President and members of the body, I'd like also to rise and oppose the amendment, but for somewhat different reasons than those cited by Senator Chambers. I actually think Senator Barnett no doubt was operating in good faith here, and I think the people are in favor of this, our operating in good faith, but it occurs to me after reading the amendment that it might be interpreted by some that are in other words, charges could be leveled in the future that somebody in this religion might be abusing a child and would open the religion to discredit, and I really don't think it's needed, I think it would possibly open this religion to discredit and for that reason I think it would perhaps do this group more harm than good, and as Senator Chambers said in addition, we are dealing with statutes, dealing with children who are minor people and can't speak for themselves, and I really think this would backfire on the people who are, are trying to protect this group, and perhaps lead to a discredit to them later on.