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LB 403

and there isn't a year that is more important than the other year and I guess what I am saying is simply this. This particular piece of legislation as I see it, Senator Rumery, allows teachers to teach our young people of this state, to teach them even if they are not accredited or if they don't have the proper qualifications to teach. I had that concern when my child entered a Christian School in Omaha. It was brought to my attention that there were staff members there who were not qualified or certified or accredited and I thought, was my child getting the best education? I know that if my child was in a public school he certainly would have qualified teachers there because state law says that these teachers must meet certain minimum requirements before they go out and teach in a profession. Well, at that point in time my child wasn't given or being afforded, let's say, the best possible instructor for that class. I thought about it and as a matter of fact, Senator, I talked with the teacher about it and subsequent to that discussion with the teacher and knowing what her background was educationally, I felt that she could do an adequate job but would my child have been exposed to a better program, a better curriculum had he been in a public school? Indeed he would have been but I chose because that was my choice. It was close, a block and a half. The public school was several blocks away. It was important to me because it was of my religion. It was important to me because there were other people doing instructing other than that one teacher. Well, I guess, Senator, what I am saying is this. I would just as soon see that every child in this state be afforded the best possible education and under this bill, Senator, I think we are saying, well, let's allow some people with one year, maybe two years or three years to go into that classroom and teach but yet at the same time, remember now, this teacher is still going to night school and she is going to have her diploma within the next year or two years. I don't think that is what I want. I don't think this is what the people of this state want. I think our children are most important to us. We have teachers out there who are qualified, who need a job and who can go in and fulfill that program of instruction the way we want to see it fulfilled, Senator, and that will be one of the reasons why I am not supporting the advancement of this bill to General File from committee.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Rumery, do you want to close?

SENATOR RUMERY: Mr. President, colleagues, there is one or two items I think we ought to address and that is the