

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, there have been a number of arguments given against the amendment, but none of them I think address anything substantial when you start looking down underneath them. Some are troubled because I am trying to make things uniform as if I have ever asserted on this floor that everything should be completely uniform for all classes of school districts. That would be nonsense, of course. I am asking you to look and see if there is a reason for making a distinction, and if there is not, then I am asserting that in the interest of equity and fairness that it should be the same for all. And what reason have you heard today for the distinction? What reason have you heard? Well, they are Class VIs. What reason is that? What does that mean? The only other possible reason that has been asserted this morning was Gerry Koch's assertion that this was going to open things up for all kinds of transfers. Well, let me remind you to begin with that to my knowledge, and I don't think Senator Koch knows of any request for transfer in IIs, IIIs, IVs and Vs to date, so I can hardly think that this is going to open up a Pandora's Box. In addition to that, there are a number of conditions that have to be met before anybody can transfer in any of these districts. The law says that the application for transfer also shall state whether any of the following conditions exist: The student lives nearer an attendance center in the proposed receiving district than in the district of residence; natural barriers exist; road conditions from the pupil's home to the school in the proposed receiving districts are better than to the school in the district of residence; travel time; educational advantages for the student exists in the proposed receiving district. They have to consider all of these conditions, and all of these conditions are equally applicable to the Class VIs as they are to other classes, and in considering all these conditions, they have to make a determination whether it is in the best interest of the student. The tip of the iceberg argument. Well, if it is the tip of the iceberg, if you really believe that, what is wrong with that? Shouldn't you treat the students in a Class II the same as a Class VI? I guess part of my problem is that I see coming in the Education Committee next year and the year after that and the year after that and the year after that a whole passel of little bills. One of them is going to come from a Class II and it is going to say, well, my student lives just as far away as this fellow up in Keyapaha County did, and he wants to go