

long time, probably 30 years or so. We have very diligently in the committee and here on the floor of this Legislature this year attempted to resolve as many of the difficult issues surrounding this issue as we possibly can. Senator Scofield keeps talking about the fact that we have a middle ground to be reached. There are those issues, and this is one of them that it's very, very difficult, if not impossible, to get everybody to agree to a middle ground. Once in a while there comes an issue where you've got to be on one side of the fence or the other and this is one of those issues where it is unpopular to be on, to some people, on either side of the fence no matter which side of the fence you're on. Senator Scofield several times this morning has indicated that we're, kicking I think was her term, some of her people in her district and we're hurting the folks in her district. Senator Scofield, I had a long conversation with one of the school board members from your district over the weekend that called me and quite frankly does not think that, this particular individual, this particular constituent of yours, does not think he's being kicked by LB 662. He likes it. So my response to you is we're not hurting everybody in your district. Neither are we hurting everybody in anybody else's district or are we helping everybody in everybody else's district at this point in time. But in the long run, over a period of years, I think we will find that it will help everybody across this state, but it is one of those issues that is difficult to resolve. Sending this bill back to the committee is not going to resolve that. It's not going to get people from one side of the issue to another side of...one side of the fence to the other side or standing on top the fence. There are those issues that just simply cannot stand on top the fence. I learned a long time ago that hurts. I suggest that if Senator Scofield and others are opposed to the bill they simply vote against the bill. Sending it back to the committee is not going to resolve anything and I think Senator Scofield even knows that. Senator Scofield wanted a committee set up to study over the interim. The proponents of this piece of legislation drafted such an amendment and there is a study mechanism established. We will have hearings over the interim on the implementation of this particular piece of legislation. I don't know what more you can expect the Legislature to do in their reaction trying to struggle through this difficult issue. Sending it back to the committee is simply another way of saying we want to kill the bill, we don't want to deal with it anymore, we