

Education Committee, would support that we go ahead on that basis now that we have the ESUs captive under the Department of Education. I think that Senator Hartnett has given the original impression that he is supporting his district in the schools of Bellevue of opting out and I have discussed this with Senator Hartnett. I think he has available to him, with the help of Bill Drafters, the means by which if Bellevue wants out that there are ways to do that. They are geographically located adjacent to another district, the Omaha Public Schools District, that has its board of education in charge of their own ESU and with all of the ability to draft bills here, I'm sure that a bill could be drafted that would address their problem, if that is what they wish, and I feel like I could even probably support that. But I will not support a bill that goes beyond that and blows holes into the system that we have out here statewide now. I think our educational system is befuddled enough with the kind of legislation we've been passing in this Legislature since I've been here. And I just think that we would not need this additional confusion and as far as addressing what Senator Hartnett wants, I think that can be done, but not with this kind of an amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I, too, have to rise in opposition of Senator Hartnett's proposal. I know where he is coming from and when we get into it a little later in the session we sometimes amend another bill and he has rightfully concerned. Geographically, as they say, his four districts I see no problem if they want to form their own or to opt out, but to include the entire state, I have Howard County north of me and Merrick County that right now are not in Educational Service Units. They are getting their services from the Grand Island Central Support Service of which is 33 different districts. I look at this too as opening the door. We had one here, pretty soon we want to opt out of the NRDs and then we want to opt out of the libraries and so on and so forth and it's unending. I'm not standing here protecting the ESUs because even last year before I really got my feet on the ground or if I have yet down here, I, personally, called for a study of the ESUs and their salary schedule. I was very much shocked in the number of people and so on, so I'm not saying that there is not something that needs to be addressed out there, but I agree with Senator Johnson and Senator Morehead. Give us an opportunity. We did a very in depth study last year and I was proud of it on special ed and I would think that we could do the