

Lamb's district maybe should be given that opportunity, but we don't really know until we have a look at the whole thing in a sensible way. It is a major policy change that you are implementing by adopting this and I feel very strongly that that policy change should not be done simply by an amendment. I think it needs a closer look at than just this. Now, I know today many of you are exhausted, frankly, after everything that happened yesterday and the demands of time for your look at legislation and other bills and lobbying efforts and trying to talk to other senators. I know that you have your minds on lots of other things, but look at what this amendment does. I know I'm repeating things, but I have found, as many others on this floor have found, that you have to say things over and over again hoping that one of those times somebody is going to listen. They may not hear you the first time or the second time, but maybe they'll hear you the third time. This is a major policy change by the adoption of an amendment. It's not unusual to find Westside in Omaha and Bellevue and the large school districts wanting this change. You look at who voted. The major school districts want that because they have the investment in staff and facilities, but that doesn't happen to the Dillers and the O'Dells and the southerns. Those school districts cannot afford these investments and if one or two of those opt out, it weakens the ESU to the point that they can't provide services on a basis for everyone. As Senator Remmers pointed out, the demands of federal legislation are going to put greater stresses on these ESUs to provide those services and I think we need to look at the federal legislation, the demands that that federal legislation is making on the state and the school districts before we weaken a system that is out there, but at least give us a chance to look at it before we implement a major policy change. I ask you not to adopt the amendment because you're getting the horse behind the cart in this case, or the cart ahead of the horse or whichever way you want to put it and that's I guess like the cow that we were running through the ring yesterday two or three times. We have a whole variety of animals. A couple years ago we had ground squirrels or something, so it's another animal out here in the ring. But in this case, please look at this amendment because you are making a policy change by one vote, a big policy change. I would like to ask Senator Hartnett, does the Department of Education support this endeavor, Senator Hartnett?

SENATOR HARTNETT: I believe they do.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: Isn't that unusual? Look at the make-up of