

the study committee. We changed the make-up of that study committee to remove some of the Department of Education people because we didn't want that overweighted that way and all of a sudden we find the Department of Education coming in and supporting this amendment. I think that should throw up another flag. Because we changed the structure of the study committee, now they are supporting this. I don't know if that's the reason or not. I'm sitting here, I don't have a whole lobbying effort behind the glass doors this morning telling me where all the players are on this particular issue, but give the Legislature a chance to look at it before you implement a policy change. Please do not adopt the Hartnett amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Baack. May we have order in the Chamber, please, so we may hear the speaker. (Gavel.) Senator Baack.

SENATOR BAACK: Mr. President, members, I've probably been as deeply involved in this issue as anyone on the Education Committee because I've met with many of the ESU people from across the state when we were discussing this study and I think that, you know, we talked about this in the Education Committee, whether or not we needed a hammer for this study and at first glance we decided, yes, we did need a hammer. We needed a hammer to make sure that this study would be done properly. Well, after talking to the ESU people several times here in Lincoln and around the state I have found that these people realize that we are extremely serious about this study and I think that, as Senator Morehead has said, we're getting ahead of ourselves here if we adopt this opt out provision ahead of the study. I think that we can find some good things come out of this study and I know that Senator Hartnett mentioned that the special ed is still having some problems even after we did that study, but some of those things that he talked about, that transportation things were some of the things that we addressed very specifically in that study and I think there is going to be some things done about those specific issues. So I think that if we would have a study of the ESUs like we had of special education, I think we could come up with some really good findings and I think then we could make a good choice as to whether or not we want to allow these schools to opt out. I think another thing you have to consider when you're saying, okay, we're going to let them opt out, is how are ESUs going to plan for staffing and things ahead of time? How are they going to know who is going to be involved in their system in the next year? I think they would run into some tremendous staffing problems and things and planning problems if this were to