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suggests may be appropriate, but not all of them. I think the frame work that's in the committee proposal is far more satisfactory and is a far better way to direct or guide the activity of the State Board of Education, of the Department of Education, and to request information and to develop a testing program that works in all of the schools across the state. Now I suppose the more fundamental issue is whether or not we should do any testing at all that we can use on a statewide basis to determine whether our schools are performing, whether students are performing. I understand that that argument has been fought in a variety of context, but I cannot believe that you want to guide the ship of education without a radar screen, without knowing or being able to measure where you are without knowing what may lie ahead, without knowing somewhere that you have been. And that, I think, it is essential to have a testing program that you have confidence in, that is used in all schools, is used on some basis that is...makes it comparable from school to school, and in some base...and in some ways gives us a comparability measure so that we can compare Nebraska schools with national schools, so that we can, I think my expectation would be, that we will wind up patting ourselves on the back...

SENATOR BRASHEAR: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...for the quality of our schools. But if the quality of our schools ever begins to decline across those national comparabilities, we'll want to know that. We'll want to know if we have...a school system should want to know if there are difficulties in their school system meeting the state requirements or how they compare on a national scale, on some basis that is reliable for them. So I think that's at the root of it. Give enough direction to achieve those things, create the test, administer it. It is far more critical to know where we're headed and why.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You know, Millard schools have been in operation for at least 30 years, and that school district decided that their curriculum would be based on