

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would stand in support of the bill LB 440 introduced by Senator Kilgarin and I have a number of experiences that I will relate to you that give you the reasons why I do support this concept. First off, I'll tell you about the first experience I had as a young person involved in government. That was the time I represented my senior class at my high school at Northeast here in Lincoln and my job was to come up with a senior gift and I spent months and months working on a gift which turned out to be some shrubbery, some trees, some beautification in the front of that high school that we paid for out of our own monies as students to try and show our appreciation to our high school and we spent a great deal of time landscaping and getting everything prepared and saving the money and that was our class gift. It was then placed in front of our school as soon as we graduated and we left and it just so happened that about a year later plans were announced to expand the high school. All that frontage that we had just beautified was all torn up and the new addition was built on and everything that we planned for and worked for was eliminated and moved on to another high school and what we had tried to do for our alma mater was, in fact, destroyed in the matter of a year after all the work that we put into it. Now how does this relate to the idea of a student serving on the board? I think at the time that we were looking into this project it would have been helpful to have somebody on the board because surely these plans would have been there far in advance of the time it was announced and it was such a short time after we put in these improvements that it was announced that an expansion was in the works. It would have been helpful to have a student on there to relate to us that perhaps we'd better keep that in mind when we were planning our gift and there are many other such projects that students get involved in to help their schools, to work for their schools that I think are beneficial to the schools which they are not kept up as much as they should be as to policy of the school district or the board's actions or potential issues that they need to be aware of in making some decisions that a student member of that board would keep them aware of. It is the same sort of thing as the student members of the Regents provide. They tell the students what is happening, give them an idea of where the decisions are, what the policies are and keep them informed and I think that alone is a valuable asset in this whole question. I think another point in favor of LB 440 is the whole question of citizenship because we have a real problem