

in this country with a lack of attention to our role as citizens in a democracy. That is to say that we all have a responsibility as citizens in a free country working to help our government in our society and it seems as though our schools are finally recognizing this responsibility and trying to teach our students the best way to learn about citizenship is to practice it. The best way to learn about our government is to participate in it and where we get our students to participate and become active is by giving them a chance, a goal in which they can have a representative on their local school board. It is the same sort of situation as the Board of Regents. At least there is a voice there that the students have to speak out and to be informed about decisions that affect them directly. There is nobody other than the teachers and staff involved in the school that is more affected by school policy than the students and the school is there to serve the students. That is the whole focal point of our educational system if there is no representative to work for them. As far as high school students not being able to handle the job I have had several high school interns in my office who have done an excellent job and have done as good a job as college students and are as perceptive and able as anybody many years older than they could be in that capacity. They can handle the job if you get the right person. So I think, number one, there are many things that students get involved in school policy that would be helpful to have a student on the board to give their opinions to and to inform students then of what the board is trying to do. Number two, we want to encourage citizenship, that it is important to have students learn that they can be part of the system and learn that they can work through the system to make change and I support trying to encourage them through the school boards if the option is adopted by the local school board to allow that to happen. And with those reasons I think that there is a real strong support and basis on which to allow LB 440 to be passed and encourage our young people to work through the system and be part of our society and good citizens in our country and state. I urge your support for LB 440.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, I can see now why several people passed over their bills today because obviously this body isn't ready to go back to work, not at least in a very serious vein. This bill originally was brought to us by the Nebraska Council of Student Governments. I think the test before us today