

support of LB 140. I think anything that contributes to financial responsibility when you have young children contributes to the future of Nebraska. Encouraging future planning in fiscal matters can do nothing but add to stability of the family. We have all heard of mid-life crisis. I think that planning for college education for a number of children who would be in your family would be nothing to help mid-life crisis if you did not have a fiscal plan in place. Anything that we can do to encourage young people to think into their future and into their children's future can be a beneficial endeavor. Even though it might be a small number of people that would participate in this type of a program, I believe it's well worth the small investment that the state might have in some tax relief for these people who would participate. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Wesely, please, then Senator Abboud.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President and members, I think Senator Chizek and the other sponsors of this bill have obviously raised a very important issue and I do plan at this point to support it. The only cautionary note I would raise and one that we ought to discuss at some point on this issue is this, I can appreciate the idea of encouraging savings and up to \$2,000 a year by a family to put away to save for college, and with two young daughters in college a ways off but still something that I'm thinking about already, I can appreciate this situation. So I applaud Senator Chizek. The only question I have is that, you know, right now, for instance, my family is unable to put away any money to save for college and I don't know, hopefully, some day I'll earn some money and maybe we'll get another salary increase down here and we'll be able to do something like that. But the question is, the real question is there is the need-based problem of paying for college and the money that would be spent for this and the question of whether or not the loss of revenue ought to be better spent through scholarship programs that would be targeted toward the needy and the low income individuals and perhaps even the middle income individuals that just can't afford to pay for college, there may be some alternatives here that we need to think about. I think this is an excellent proposal. I plan to support it but, again, we're faced with if we only have \$4 million to put into assisting people to pay for college, there may be other higher priorities that are more targeted that we may want to think about. I haven't seen those come forward and so I have no