

to those districts that need it, in other words. I look at this bill as being just the opposite, just the opposite. Instead of having equalization aid, it's equalization aid in reverse because those districts which are most in need of being able to improve their programs will be forced to pay tuition to another district and so they will then be in a lesser position to better themselves. End of speech.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Question.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Won't be necessary, sir, thank you. There are no other lights on. Senator Baack, any closing statement?

SENATOR BAACK: Yes, just a few remarks. I think that, you know, Senator Lamb has pointed out in the editorial in the Lincoln Journal and he thinks this is such a good editorial and it points out what needs to be done in education. I would assume that then Senator Lamb will be introducing the next school reorganization bill because I think if you look at the last paragraph it says, that's where we need to be looking at, so I would assume if this is a good idea in the first part, that he will be introducing the next school reorganization bill for this state because that's what it says in the end, that we need to be doing some school district reorganization. This is a new idea. There is no doubt about that and it's a big idea and it has the potential of being one of the big changes in the way that we educate kids that we've ever had an opportunity to vote on. There is no doubt about that. But I think that the mechanism is in place now in the bill and as we have amended it to where it is a slow, measured phase-in and I don't see anything wrong with that. I think we are approaching this thing, saying it is a big change, I'm willing to do it very slowly. I introduced the bill and it was just a boom, one of those kind of things that just hits you right square in the forehead, you know, we're going to do it immediately. I found that there are a lot of concerns with that, so I was willing to phase this issue in and I think that we can do that with this bill. And the study in there gives the Education Committee an opportunity to look at this issue as we slowly phase it in, to study the issue and to make the changes that are necessary to make this thing work really well, and it can be done. It can be done, but it is difficult to do, I'll be the first to admit that. It's been a couple of years I've been working on this