

to make that statement. I will be willing to look at and debate the issue of additional funding at the point that we have, I think, a budget before us that we can weigh what is important to us as a body with regard to issues that we feel we need to provide for our constituents. The program, I guess, I would disagree with Senator Warner's comments in that I don't think that we are laying out any false hopes to individuals. I think that what we are laying out, if we do not advance LB 84, is no hope. We are laying out no hope for any property tax relief, and I don't think that is what this body wants to do. We have time and time heard that property taxes are the most important issue that we need to address. And I firmly believe that LB 84, as it's been amended here on General File, provides for that hope, and it is real hope for the taxpayers, the property taxpayers of Nebraska. I would argue also that it is not impossible to wipe a program out. We've done it specifically on the homestead exemption program a couple different times. But LB 84, I think, provides for real property tax relief that we need to enact, we need to advance it to E & R today so that we have the ability to make decisions at the point in time we have a budget before us and we can vote up or down whether we feel that property taxes are our first and foremost priority. I would urge the advancement of LB 84 to E & R. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Chizek, followed by Senators McFarland and Korshoj.

SENATOR CHIZEK: Mr. Speaker, colleagues, I believe I heard Senator Warner say that once you enact something like this it's difficult to deal with. I passed out a sheet this morning, starting in 1967, that goes through 1989, that shows you in 1969 there was an exemption enacted, on up through 1983 there were a number of bills, and the bill numbers are on there, that dealt with the homestead exemption in one manner or another. In 1983, LB 396, there was a general repeal. In 1984 it was reinstated; '85 and '86 the body chose to put no funding; and then in 1986, with LB 6, in the special session there was a general repeal. So I would disagree that these things have a way of being on the statutes and never leaving. I think the interesting thing to remember, colleagues, is that we have a sunset, two years. Hopefully we can come back here next year and deal with the study that exists. But I think 1989 is a year when we have a responsibility to those citizens from the western borders to the eastern borders and from the Dakota borders to the Kansas