

you folks please stand and be recognized. And also Senator Nelson has 51 fourth graders from Gates Elementary in Grand Island with their teachers. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Thank you. We're pleased to have you students and your teachers with us this morning. Further discussion on the Moore motion to bracket the bill. Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Well, Mr. President and members, I rise in strong opposition to the motion by Senator Warner and in support of the bracket motion. Now we went through this debate the other day and as it was stated at that time let's get down to the nitty gritty. What actually is happening here? The question is, how do you want to...what do you want to do with the excess funds? Do you want property tax or do you want to put it in a savings account? That's basically the question here. Do you want property tax relief? Because this is a threat to property tax relief. Should we return this money to the taxpayers or should we stash it away in a fund somewhere? I say, no. I say that the people of the State of Nebraska want property tax relief and this motion by Senator Warner is a direct threat to that proposal. Now we hear about the Commonwealth issue. That...that, as I see it, that's a red herring that's being drawn across the trail because there's nothing in this amendment that says that money will be spent for any specific purpose, no specific purpose. Now if we wanted to save money, there is plenty of room in the reserve, the three to seven percent reserve. And I respect Senator Warner's conservatism in this...on this issue, but there is no need to have a special fund off by itself when the people are crying for property tax relief. And so that's what we're talking about today, here and now. Do you want property tax relief or do you want the money stashed away in a fund to be spent, we know not how, sometime in the future? I ask that this...this body do what they did the other day and that is reject Senator Warner's amendment. Now bracketing the bill is one way to get these things in focus, as Senator Moore has pointed out. We could bracket the bill and then discuss it after some of the log jam has been dissipated so that we know how this Legislature wants to proceed. Now if you don't want to bracket it, then I strongly suggest that you reject Senator Warner's amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Langford, followed by Senator Korshoj.

SENATOR LANGFORD: Mr. President, I would like to call the question.