

long-time supporters of state aid, state that \$18 million is too much money at this particular time to give to education, where in years past \$18 million would not have been enough. My feeling is that we should make a decision on this based on how much we feel state aid should be. Maybe it should be \$18 million. Maybe that's the best approach. The Legislature has not established what the final priorities have been. We've chosen 90 over 90, 95 percent of our budget up to this point in time and now we're deciding the fine points of the budget, making sure that we go within the parameters of the Constitution of a balanced budget. We only have a few days to decide, but we still do have a few days. Whether this should be included in it, whether \$18 million or whether it should be nine, may have to be finally determined on the final day of our session. But at this particular time I realize the administrators came down here late, the school boards came down here late with this particular proposal, but it's never over till it's over, as we found out with the Commonwealth amendment earlier this morning. I think the people that believe in something, they have the opportunity up until the very last day. I recall one particular session when John DeCamp, in the waning hours of the session, tried to provide us with property tax relief with a large resolution and we went late into the night on the very last day. So I don't feel that it's too late to discuss this large of a property tax relief measure dealing with state aid, so I will not be supporting the Withem-Kristensen amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The member from North Platte, Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Question.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. Shall debate now close? All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, please.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 2 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate ceases. For closing, Senator Withem or Senator Kristensen? Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, we oftentimes do things that we wish we didn't do and I suppose that there is a lot of state aid supporters out there who wish that we could put a lot more money into this and I do too. But