

and middle income brackets had to go down. So I've been consistent for two years, and now in 739, thanks to the Governor in her proposal in December we've had a chance to do that, and I'm going to be supportive of that. I urge opposition to the bracket motion, and in turn support of LB 739 and pass it into law.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, members, sorry, Senator Beyer. Mr. President and members, I equally rise to oppose the bracket motion and any other motions that may be filed on this bill. Like Senator Moore, I was one of those few that voted against the passage and advancement of LB 773 back in '87. However, as time has developed and the economy has evolved and we have seen the increase in the revenue collections in our state, I guess I'd ask the body to look at the reverse side of LB 773, which quite frankly is reflective in the increased revenues that the state is now collecting. And quite frankly the debate that we've had on this floor, across this session at least, relates to the favorable income and the fact that we now have money to spend on programs that are listed on the back of your agenda. A lot of that money is going to stay right here in the state to help support programs we've been waiting for years to support. I think that it's unfortunate, I think, that many critics of the adjustment that was made in LB 773 are bad-mouthing it and saying it was a tax increase, whatever you want to call it. There has been some beneficial side to that adjustment in that the State of Nebraska has been the beneficiary of that, and many of us, as representatives of districts, have been able to benefit as well by getting programs that we've waited for years to pass finally in the budget. As I sense today's debate it is, quite honestly, as I view it and I think Senator Moore also hit on it earlier, it's an attempt for one last time to exact one more pound of flesh out of the Governor. It's a chance to try and pin her down again. She has come forward, straight-faced, and has admitted there were some unintended tax consequences that came with LB 773. She's admitted that. I don't know what more the money wants to get out of her out of this. It seems to me the time has come we develop legislation, we pass legislation under consensus. The consensus I sense and I think most people in this body would sense is that the bill is ready to be passed in its current form, I don't anticipate any more amendments being adopted today. And I think that the body should recognize, as I've