

an education bill but I know Senator Wesely's office did the initial work on it. The people on the task force are the ones really responsible for it. Senator Crosby, this summer, did excellent work with kind of picking up the ball on this piece of legislation and certainly appreciate all the work she has done. It's a good...it is a good proposal for the Legislature to commit itself to working in this area of early childhood education. It was pointed out to me that among all of the concerns in education on a survey of Nebraska administrators, when you get into quality education types of issues, that early childhood education ranks among the top. I would urge you to advance the bill. And if Senator Crosby has some words she would like to offer in closing, I would relinquish the rest of my time.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Crosby, please.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Withem. We were pleased to work with the task force this summer and this fall. And what I would like to point out again about that task force, there are several young mothers on the task force who have the knowledge needed in this day and age as to why we need early childhood education and care and development. So that is one of the points I want to make again to you. I also want to...I passed out some...a fact sheet this morning pointing out that good preschools for children of any circumstances are cost effective because of the net results in later life. And we don't...we end up...children who are not...who don't develop early and who don't get proper nutrition and every facet of good health practices, and so on, in later life maybe develop reading disabilities or other kind of needs, special education. That was another point that was made in the Head Start Programs, that a lot of those students did not need that kind of special education because they had developed early and had had good nutrition and learned good health practices. So I just urge you to vote for the bill. I know that we are all concerned about costs on all of these programs but, as far as I am concerned, education is the cornerstone of our society and our children are the ones that we should be educating and we owe that to them. So I think that the cost needs to be looked at but also we shouldn't be downgrading that cost too much. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. And the question is the advancement of the bill. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.