

appreciate Senator Moore's always concern for the property tax dollar but I, too, am like Senator Crosby, I know that this gives the board an opportunity to increase taxes maybe. I don't like to be whipped around by the thought of a lawsuit but it is very...it is sincere in this case and if this would help alleviate the problem and, of course, the classifying of property, I think that we don't have any other alternative. Also, my area, I don't believe, is particularly affected by this, but we do live in all Nebraska and those people out there are willing maybe to dig a little bit deeper in their pockets to have the same education opportunities that we have. And so I think that we actually have no other alternative than to help them out and also the Mid-Plains area. They cannot help that the population may or may not be there, but, again, I think that they deserve any opportunity we have and I might also tell you that they are very, very...they really scrutinize their budget and their programs, so in no way can I say that they are extravagant or that they are spending taxpayers' dollars that aren't necessary. So, with that, I do hope that you support this bill.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Senator Nelson. Senator Weihing, please, followed by Senator Elmer and Hefner.

SENATOR WEIHING: Would Senator Moore rise to a question?

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Senator Moore, would you respond?

SENATOR MOORE: Yes.

SENATOR WEIHING: Would you tell me what the Constitution says about property tax, that is taxing in property taxes with regards to amount among the various segments? In other words, what is equal? Does it speak to equality on taxes?

SENATOR MOORE: Well, to my knowledge it does, and I'm certainly not a constitutional scholar and I wouldn't exactly...there is some clause in there on equality, that's a problem with our personal property tax.

SENATOR WEIHING: Yes, that's right, and everyone is to pay equal. Isn't that right?

SENATOR MOORE: Well, if it was quite that simple, I don't think we would ever pass the bill to get us into this problem.