

petition drive and working on that were people from the private sector, their children were in private education, and yet they were getting signatures and helping and supporting a public school measure. And so I look at it, I guess, very narrowly from my own perspective and point of view within the district that I come from, but actually this would be a state benefit. I feel that it's a matter of fairness. We see these folks helping and supporting a public school effort because they are committed to all types of education, and I think that's something we need to bring before the body, we are committed to all kinds of education. We are committed to support public education, and this is a very small amount to consider for those who have...in independent certified schools who have supported public endeavors. And I think that it's time that we consider it, I think it's time that we passed this bill on. And it just furthers a good concept, an open concept of looking at all people's educational expenses and, of course, those in particular probably the private, independent school. And we never, of course, want to diminish our support of public education. That's why I brought forth...I'd like to mention to you I hope that you will look at the material that Senator Hall has distributed to us. This is very fine material and it covers the entire argument. And I think those of you who might be a little bit apprehensive of this type of thing need to really look through this material very carefully, because I think it covers the argument for LB 346. And I know that I have many people have written to me from all across the state, and surprisingly many from public...have their children in public institutions and public schools. And they feel that it's time for this type of thing because it would, indeed, as Senator Abboud so succinctly mentioned, it will help property tax. And so, with that, I would just like to throw my support to Senator Hall's bill and I would hope that we would advance it very quickly. Thank you very much.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Senator Beck. Senator Hall, please.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members. There are a number of concerns that have been raised, I think, by some of the discussion that has taken place on the bill. And really probably the most important one that I think ought to be dealt with quickly is the one...the constitutional issue that was raised. I'm sure Senator Hefner, who follows me in the speaking order, will raise that issue when he talks about the March 9,