

state is because of our tremendous reliance on property tax there is a tremendous need, I think, in school systems right simply to fight to maintain what they already have. And I know, for example, in the North Platte school systems though things have gone up in certain areas they have had to reduce many, many programs simply because they can't afford to keep those things going. So to ask school systems then to come in and say, you know, there are some warning bells out there, we need to look and see if there is a better way we can do so, the first question, of course, we're going to come back is, that's fine, what programs do we cut to do so or where are we going to get the money, because it's very difficult right now with the property tax situation we're in, particularly if, you know, if you lose money on a pipeline case and years ago we lost money on a railroad case. We don't know what the courts later on are going to be saying, and the special session, and what have you, so there's a big indefinite there. One of the things the Education Committee wanted to do is to say, listen, if you're willing to bring in parents, if you're willing to bring in the students and community leaders and really look at your school from the ground floor up, and if you are willing to do that and you come up with a proposal that you think will really help better educate our children in which manner you deem necessary, we're willing to put some money in there. We're willing to help you get that done. And we're also willing to say, some of the rules and regulations that are keeping you from making some of the changes, we're going to waive those if it's reasonable and we're going to waive those to give you an opportunity to perform. And I think Senator Langford made a very good point when we talk about the money that's being spent versus the gains. But I also want to say that when we put \$4 million of research money to the University of Nebraska, we should have asked...and we did ask the same questions, what will we gain out of that? And the answer was, we don't know, we have no idea what the research...if it will be successful or not. In fact, most good research fails miserably a long period of time until finally they reach...they study from their failures and they finally get to something that works. So it very well may be, as Senator Withem says and Senator Korshoj says, that we could spend \$300,000 and absolutely nothing comes from that. But I think what the Education Committee was trying to say is we think that when you allow community leaders and the parents and the children and the educators and those that are noneducators to get together to look at, that the chances of success of finding a better way to do so is much, much more probable than the