

chances of failure. And I think if we can find some better ways to educate our children, using better techniques and we give them the emphasis to do that, I am convinced that the other school districts will want to follow. And I'm convinced that we can do something here. And I'm also convinced if we're willing to spend \$4 million in technology research and experimental research, we also can spend 300,000 for the future of our children because we might come up with something better. And I think we can because I have a lot of faith in the people down at that area that they can do...that they can do that. I have a lot of faith in those people. So I would hope...

SENATOR HANNIBAL: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...that we would simply go back, look at the focus of the issue and say, are we doing things correctly now? And if the answer is we're not sure, we're willing to make some changes, then I think the Legislature needs to take that first step. And I think we'll be surprised of what we come up with. But I think we'll all lose if we fail to give people even a chance to try. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Pirsch, please, your light is on again. I don't see her here. Then we will go to Senator Dierks, please.

SENATOR DIERKS: Mr. President and members of the body, I just wanted to offer a few words about this legislation. In the four years that I have served on the Education Committee, I think it's very clear that that committee has been issuing challenges to people who come before it and sometimes who haven't been there. We are all concerned about education in Nebraska, not only elementary and secondary but postsecondary. I think the challenge has been issued to the Commission On Postsecondary Education and it's been issued to educators across the state that we want the best in education for our children and we have to do whatever we can to try to find this. We are all concerned about the lack of reading comprehension and the lack of spelling abilities and the lack of knowledge of geography and we all are aware of that and we all are disappointed with that. So I think that whenever we can come up with some sort of a plan that will improve the situation that it's necessary for us to support that. This particular bill, I believe, is a bill that will do that and I don't have any problems with it myself. I think that it's a fairly