

well, but in comparison to what we really need to be doing for our kids it's not...it's not there. We need to rethink a lot of things we do in education. Senator Korshoj asked me here privately if...are there some things going on in the schools that maybe shouldn't be? Should we be eliminating some programs? I would say absolutely, absolutely. What we have tended to do with our education system is every time something new comes along we add on, we add on a new program in lots of areas. And I've probably stood on the floor and supported a number of those that I may have second thoughts about later on. We tend to add on, add on and add on. Pretty soon there is no more room to add on. We need to rethink a lot of the things that are being taught in our schools and whether they are, in fact, involved with the mastery learning and the other approaches that we need in the areas of improving education. We passed a bill in this Legislature when I first got here, LB 994, and didn't fund it. Last year we passed choice legislation and, hopefully, we're going to fund that this year with Senator Baack's bill that he has in. Aside from that, in terms of looking at overall school quality and whether our kids are getting good experiences in our schools or not, we haven't done much as a Legislature and we really need to do more, I think. And for that reason I would urge you to support LB 960. This is a bill that was caught up with all of the other bills that were vetoed last year when the money wasn't available but this body unanimously did send this bill out of this Chamber on Final Reading, unanimous support last year. We had some of the same questions that came up last year in General File debate and I think we had a good discussion like this last year. People felt comfortable with the bill last year. If there are people like, you know, Senator Peterson, I think, had a good suggestion, that we look over some Select File amendments in that area. Senator Pirsch might have had some good suggestions, things that we needed to add to the bill. So I would be happy to work with those individuals between now and Select. I would urge you to support the legislation.

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

ASSISTANT CLERK: 26 ayes, 3 nays on the advancement of the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The bill is advanced. Let's take up LB 960A,