

record, Mr. Clerk? The call is raised.

CLERK: I have nothing at this time, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The Chair is pleased to note that Senator McFarland would like us to recognize the doctor of the day, Dr. Rick Gustafson, of the Lincoln Family Practice Program, who is serving today through the courtesy of the Academy of Family Physicians. Please welcome Dr. Gustafson under the north balcony. Doctor. Also in our south balcony Senator Coordsen is pleased to recognize 20 ninth graders from Friend, Nebraska, with their teacher. In the south balcony, would you folks please stand and be recognized. Thank you. We are glad to have you. Proceeding to item 7, Mr. Clerk, special order, LB 1059.

CLERK: Mr. President, 1059 was a bill introduced by Senator Withem and a number of members. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 9 of this year, Mr. President. At that time, it was referred jointly to the Education and Revenue Committees for public hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending to the bill. (See AM2309 on page 579 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Withem, will you be handling the committee amendments?

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, I will, Mr. Speaker, and members of the body. I think what I am going to do with my time here on the committee amendments is say a few things. Hopefully, it will set the stage for the debate because this is, as you know, the bill that probably has received more attention, public attention, than anything else that is being proposed this session. I don't think that has anything necessarily to do with the people whose names are on the bill. It has to do with the fact that forces in the State of Nebraska are compelling the Legislature to deal with this whole question of how we fund education, and how we tax property. So this will be a major bill. It is a major debate, and it is important, I think, that we discuss the bill in its proper perspective. I am hopeful that we will have a good debate. I am hopeful that your questions will be raised. I am hopeful that they will be answered. I am hopeful that, as we conclude the debate on General File, that people leave that debate with a comfort level feeling that they understand the bill well enough to make a conscious decision. If they support the bill, great, I would