

set out with, I think as we discuss it further this afternoon, you will once again be reinforced, those goals are accomplished and, yes, the better good for the entire state is accomplished, and for that reason I urge the adoption and advancement of the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, Senator Moore. Mr. Clerk, an amendment on the desk.

CLERK: Mr. President, the first amendment I have is offered by Senator Labeledz. Senator Labeledz's amendment is on page 605 of the Journal.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The Chair recognizes Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. The amendment that I introduced has been in the Journal. I think most of you know what it is. It's LB 346, the tuition tax credit that was introduced. The major sponsor was Senator Tim Hall and myself and others as co-sponsors. I feel very strongly about tuition tax credit and have been for several years. I noticed that through the mail today I received several sheets from the National Association of School Boards where they are giving the senators a scoreboard, or scorecard, and one of the bills listed on one of the sheets was LB 346 which is the tuition tax credit and the NASB is requesting that we vote no and we got a scorecard on LB 259 and also on LB 1059. Let me read you some figures that I think are very important. The average per pupil cost for Nebraska public school grades K-6, school year 1987-88, is \$3,038. There are 21,427 students enrolled in K-6 which is a savings of...to the state, of \$65 million. Now the average per pupil cost for Nebraska public school grades 7-12, school year '87-88, is \$4,248. Now that is the per pupil cost. There are 13,258 pupils enrolled in private schools which is a savings of \$56,319,984. That is a total cost savings for 34,000 students that are enrolled in private schools of \$121,415,210. That certainly is a considerable amount of savings to the state when in Nebraska more than 34,000 students are enrolled in approved nonpublic schools. These students and their parents fulfill every educational requirement of the state. They also make great financial sacrifices so that it's possible for them to choose an education for their children in conformity with their religious faith. LB 346 would have helped alleviate the double burden borne by parents of nonpublic school children. Now we're asking those same parents to pay an increase in the sales tax