

100 percent sure that this will replace property taxes. I've been down here 14 years now and as we've increased state aid to education we find that many times it does not replace property taxes and so we want to be sure that it does. Why do we need a lid? Another reason is because the pressure is great out there. The school board members are under a lot of pressure and so I feel that this will help. They can say, well, I'd certainly support that but now we have a lid and I certainly don't have anything against the school board members in our state. They are fine people. I know a lot of them, I used to serve on the school board. But the pressure is there and so if we adopt a three-year lid I think it will be more realistic than a one-year lid. Talk about lids, the counties have it now. The counties have lived with it for a long time. Sure, once in a while a county does get into trouble but eventually they work it out, and we know that the public or the majority of the public supports a lid. There has been a petition drive to put a 2 percent lid on the ballot. I don't know whether it is going to be successful. It looks like it could be. I don't know what the people will do this fall. They could vote it in, but I think that we need this lid on this bill to make sure that it will relieve property taxes, also that it will replace property taxes. The School Board Association has told me that they do not have a problem with this, that they could support it, and then if we need further adjustments, well, we're meeting down here every year, we could go ahead and change this. If we feel it's too high or too low, well, we could come back and fine tune it next year or the following year. But getting back to this bill, I want to commend Senator Withem and Moore and Lamb and the others, Senator Warner I believe was on it too, on the school finance committee and all those others that served on it. I know that they worked long and hard to try to find a reasonable solution so that we could replace some of the high property taxes we have in Nebraska. I believe this is the best proposal that I have seen in the 14 years that I've been down here and we've been wrestling with this for a long time, but there again, I want to be sure that we have at least a minimum of three years. I also want to talk about that scoreboard that Senator Labeledz talked about it that was sent out by the Nebraska School Boards Association and one of the columns was, did you support or did you cosign LB 1059? Well, colleagues, I did not sign that and I do not wish to be criticized for not signing it. It was brought to me the morning that it was introduced and I had about two or three hours to decide whether I wanted to sign it or not and here was a 50-page bill. And so I want to kind of