

them, giving responses. I think we've gotten high grades for those. We have also...I've been involved as a Chair of the Education Committee conducting hearings that have wide interests on a statewide basis. The higher education hearing was the most recent one where we had receiver sites, and I think it was 14 cities around the state, 14 different locations. It was an excellent process for the Legislature, and also for the state, I believe. If you'd...I still happen to have my bill book open to LB 1141 here, which many of you don't want to hear again for a while, probably, after this morning. But it's kind of interesting the large number of people who are able to testify, a lot of those folks were not in the vicinity of Lincoln, they were testifying from their homes. Some interesting little anecdotal things, for instance, the president of Wayne State College got in his car, drove to...drove to Lincoln in order to testify, it was late in the afternoon when he testified, and then he got in his car and drove back home. The president of Peru State College stayed in Peru, testified from Peru, he was able to walk across the street, give his testimony and then get back to work that afternoon. Another individual drove down from Omaha to testify, barely was able to get in to testify, had she stayed in Omaha she would have been one of the early testifiers and would have...would have been done quite early. We're in our early stages of experimenting with this process, and there are still some definite problems in the system. But it's one that takes the legislative process out to the people, allows people anywhere in the state to become part of our process. And it's one I think we ought to continue to work on, it's not where I think we'll be the very near future having every hearing on every issue televised across the state, but doing it on limited issues of recognized statewide importance where we know there are lots of people around the state are interested, I think is a good idea. And I think for the modest sum of \$20,000 added to the Research Department's budget, this is a good program to support, and I would urge you to do it.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Moore, please. Senator Barrett, please.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I simply rise in support of Senator Withem's motion to find another 20 or 30 thousand dollars, whatever that figure was, for televised hearings. This is an experiment which has been underway for a couple of years now, and it has drawn a great amount of good interest and support from across the state. The