

it, that it is not going to end all of our problems with property tax, but we do need to begin a shift and an equalization across the state, which 1059 addresses. As to the tuition tax credit part of it, I do support that. From the very beginning of the United States of America, a lot of our schools were private schools to start with. People wanted their children to be educated, and they wanted to educate them in their own way. The public school system has evolved over the years, and we faced that obligation and we live up to that obligation to educate our children. It is in our Constitution of Nebraska, the State of Nebraska, that we are obligated to educate our children from 5 years old to 21. And the public schools do a wonderful job of that, and I do support the public schools always. But I think it's only fair, and in this day and age when we've passed the choice bill, that people do have a choice to send their children to other schools. It does cost them. They support those schools through their parishes and through other...the Lutheran schools, the Christian schools, the Catholic schools, and other private schools. And, so I think it's only fair that they are able to deduct some of those expenses that they entail by choosing to send their children to another school. And this amendment encompasses public school parents, too, for expenses that they face in activities and that kind of thing. So I do support the amendment and thank you, Senator Labeledz, for having me...giving me a little bit of your time.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Labeledz, approximately three minutes.

SENATOR LABEDZ: I'll do it on closing. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Crosby, yours was the next light, do you care to make any other statement?

SENATOR CROSBY: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't get this opportunity very often, because I never get my light on in time. But, since I have the opp...I will continue just one more little thing. I think we all recognize the amount of taxes that people who send their children to private schools pay. And also, in Lincoln, Nebraska, for instance, if all of a sudden for some reason all of our schools closed, the private schools closed, the public schools would be pushed to take all those students in. So I think that we are in a...as we enter the twenty-first century, we need to start cooperating. And we do...Over the years there has been a lot of cooperation between private