

the body to do something that possibly could unravel the bill. Originally I was not too sold on the idea of LB 1059 because I was worried about, frankly, the state income tax base, and if we were not eroding that to a great deal for future legislatures, but because of all the work that has been done on this bill and because of all the good presentations that we've heard, gradually I became convinced that maybe we did have a solution here to offering some kind of property tax, not relief, but exchange for the income-sales tax. But I have been approached on several occasions by people in Lincoln as well as members of the school board who are very concerned about this bill and think that the Lincoln Public Schools would have a very difficult time existing under this bill, and we've tried to figure out a way to work with it so that it wouldn't unravel. And I guess the idea of a lid being on the bill in the first place is difficult for me too, Senator Withem, because I think that we do a lot, officials like you and me, to make those kinds of decisions and here in Lincoln, I believe by and large, our school board has made good decisions. I think that the public has been happy with them except maybe when it came to the issue of trees, but by and large, the public has been happy. By and large, the public has been very, very supportive of the educational system and I have heard some comments on this floor about the fact that it sounds like Lincoln is whining. I don't think you could call it that because Lincoln has not said a word. I've not heard a word from the school board or any of the others who have commented to me about the fact that we're going to be transporting tax dollars to other school districts. That's not the concern here. The concern here is, can we continue to provide the kind of education that we would like for our children here in Lincoln? And some of us feel that you're going to be making it very difficult for us to do that based on the fact that we have a very strong growth rate in Lincoln and I believe the figures this year were 800 new students entered the school system this year and it is projected that way on down the road so that we're going to continue to have this growth factor for a long time. Frankly, I'm really in a bind but I'm going to have to support Senator Landis's amendment to see if that won't ease the situation for not only Lincoln, I'm talking about Lincoln because that's the one I'm most familiar with, but hopefully, for several of these other school districts that we discussed earlier. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Wesely, please, followed by Senator Hartnett.