

right. Where income is generated, where sales are generated, that's an acceptable basis upon which to draw. But let me go through all of the elements that I find in which we have made attempts to recognize the legitimate needs of the varying school districts in this state. Many of you are from Omaha. When this bill was analyzed first with a standard tier for everyone, Omaha's interests were negatively impacted. The bill has a special tier for Omaha. Your problems were solved. Many of you had state aid reductions from our existing state aid levels. We passed first a diminishing hold harmless provision. Just recently we passed a 100 percent hold harmless for three years and with an examination I guess of the potential for the continuation of that. Your problems were solved. Many of you have districts that have poor districts that will receive a significant amount of money under 1059. Your problems were solved. The engine of money in this bill are the sales and income taxes and unlike most of the rest of you, Lincoln winds up being an exporter of dollars. We wind up paying for that special tier in Omaha, we wind up helping pay for that hold harmless provision, we wind up helping pay for those poor districts, and that's all right with me. We've got a state system of education, that's all right. But now we're saying, listen, and we're not asking for state aid, we're asking for the right to use our own resources to run our schools. And to fail to adopt this amendment basically says that you're calling upon our taxpayers to export dollars to help other school systems while at the very same time limiting our own ability to meet the needs in Lincoln, and that's just too much, that's unfair. It's all right, we will help with that tier for Omaha, we'll help with the payments for the poor districts, we'll help with the hold harmless, but don't take from us our ability to fund education for our kids. The opportunity for us, the obligation for us to assist you in getting better education for your kids is a reasonable one to ask us to do, but it should not be accompanied by the limitation on our ability to educate our own kids, and that's just too much to expect. We're not asking this in a form of a hold harmless or state aid, we're not asking for this to come out of a pot of money that you pay for. We're asking for this to come out of our own pockets to pay for the growth factor in our city. That's true of the situation in Millard, it's true of the situation in Bellevue, and it seems to me that gains for your education, for your kids for better school districts should not be at the concomitant loss of our ability to fund our kids. It's just not fair.