

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The Chair is pleased to note that Senator Ashford has 37 eighth graders from St. Margaret Mary in Omaha visiting with us in the south balcony, with their teachers. Would you people please stand and be recognized by the Legislature. Thank you. We're pleased to have you visiting with us this afternoon. Mr. Clerk, back to LB 1113, please.

CLERK: Mr. President, 1113 was discussed this morning. At this time I have no further amendments pending to the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Am I closing or should I...?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Did you open on the bill this morning?

SENATOR WESELY: Yeah. I'll wait to close.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Is there any discussion on the advancement of LB 1113? Seeing none, Senator Wesely, the floor is yours.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. I, obviously, I'm disappointed in the Moore amendment. I think it hurt the bill. I think it will hurt the state. I think we need to have a study and a plan developed for housing needs in the State of Nebraska. Senator Moore promised, and it's in the floor debate, that this administration will conduct a housing study, that there will be a plan developed and I hope that, in fact, that does happen. I, for one, have had previous disappointments in promises like that. I recall again, with Senator Moore, as we talked about a telecommunications division that never did happen after promises were made that we were going to see it developed and after it was funded and mandated nothing ever did actually turn into programs for several years. We saw it languish and eventually nothing happened. Maybe this will be different. Maybe, in fact, we will see a housing plan. There is now no language in the bill as a result of the Moore amendment to make sure that that does happen, but I hope I'm wrong. I hope that that the study will be done because, in fact, we need it. Our housing problems here are serious. This is no light issue. Housing is a fundamental need, a fundamental problem and we have done next to nothing to address it. Hopefully, that will change. The ironic part of it all is that it was the funding