

SENATOR WITHEM: Thank you very much. I appreciate that. I bring this resolution in support of the Nebraska Mathematics Coalition. A lot of times on the floor of the Legislature we talk about the need to get busy and reform education and do a better job of teaching our young people. There is a group of people in Nebraska, very prestigious group of individuals, Senator Bob Kerrey is involved with it, I know Governor Orr was involved, Bob Duncan of Duncan Aviation, Woody Varner, Dr. Massengale. You always end up with problems when you start mentioning some names. I know I left out some other individuals that should have been mentioned, but a number of very prestigious people in our state who are working in an attempt to improve mathematics education in Nebraska. The University of Nebraska, through Jim Lewis and Don Miller, are providing released staff time to staff this project. They are very serious about working with elementary and secondary schools in Nebraska to improve mathematics education. They are in the process of applying for a grant from the National Science Foundation. The number of...well, I'm not even going to mention the number but it's quite a significant sum of money if we were able to participate in this project. We get a great deal of help in promoting the systemic change in mathematics education in Nebraska. One of the things we need to demonstrate is that there has been support, that there is local support. We, as a Legislature, have passed Senator Scofield's bill dealing with the Jump Program. We have passed and supported school restructuring programs which are, in effect, systemic changes in education. We have established a math and science loan program. Creation of the Nebraska Telecommunications Consortium is helping the reform of mathematics education and what we are doing with this resolution is going on record supporting the efforts of the Nebraska Mathematics Coalition in improving mathematics education and indicating that we are supportive of them in attempting to compete for this grant. The folks in the National Science Foundation will be in the state this week and will be evaluating Nebraska's initiative and will be taking a report back to the awarding authorities from the Science Foundation. So I would urge your support for this resolution.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: I, too, to rise to support the resolution of Senator Withem's and feel it necessary. But the one thing I wanted to mention is the body will probably also have the