

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...without reference to the quality of the boxes, or quality of education, or the wall of church and state. There is a sensible reason not to support an amendment that grants \$4 to people that, in my estimation, don't deserve the state's largess to help them with their costs.

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR LANDIS: It's part of the part of being a parent in those situations, and then what you're left with is an untenable benefit ratio of 60 percent.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Landis. Next speaker is Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of Senator Hall's amendment, in fact Senator Hall and myself and a few others co-sponsored LB 332, which is on General File, and the amendment permits the parents of elementary and secondary students, whether in public or nonpublic schools, the opportunity to claim a tax deduction, and I want to emphasize the fact that it is a tax deduction and is not a credit, for payments made on tuition and school transportation and nonreligious textbooks. It's an amendment that provides an opportunity for all parents to receive tax relief for certain educational expenses. One of the very big reasons that I voted for...against LB 1059, when that was before us, was because of the fact that I got so much criticism in my district from parents that send their children to private schools and would not see any benefit whatsoever out of LB 1059, and yet at the same time their sales tax and their income tax was increased. In Nebraska, approximately 35,000 students are enrolled in approved nonpublic schools. These students and their parents fulfill every obligation and educational requirement of the state, and they also make the financial sacrifices so that it's possible for them to choose a school to educate their children in conformity with their religious faith. The amendment would help alleviate the double burden that now is borne by the parents of the nonpublic schools. I...it's also important to recognize that this amendment is not a change that will benefit only the private school parents, and due to the increasing costs of education in our private schools, and I stood before you the other day and told you how the bingo proceeds are helping