

Senator Rod Johnson has special guests. There are 90 fourth graders from Aurora Elementary in Aurora, Nebraska, and their teachers. Would you rise and be recognized. Thank you. I will now recognize Senator Dierks, followed by Senators Hartnett and Will. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Madam President, and members of the body, I just wanted to stand in support of this amendment. It becomes...I think it affects all of us. I don't think any of us are without these type of schools in our district and it does provide, I think, some equity for those people who are willing to spend that extra personal dollar to educate their children in a private facility and it does also...those schools do really provide quite a relief as far as total tax requirements are for those school districts. We have had a situation in O'Neill for the last several years where the students are actually out on money drives to try to keep their school open, and had that school closed, it would have...it would have added about half again as many students to the public school system, a system that's already severely taxed for space and teachers. And by the advent of these students' efforts, why they have managed to collect enough private dollars to keep their school open. And this is just one little help that we can give those people attending parochial schools or private schools. So I would certainly support this issue. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Madam Chair, I would like to call the question.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The question is, shall debate cease? Do we have sufficient seconds? Okay, proceed to vote on the motion to cease debate. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 13 ayes, 8 nays to cease debate, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The motion fails. I will now recognize Senator Will, followed by Senators Schimek and Hillman. Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body, I rise in support of the Hall amendment to LB 773. I think that the proponents of the amendment have done a very thorough job of