

the other budget issues we have to look at. I guess I'm going to ask Senator Lynch, I'm out of time, when Senator Lynch gets a chance to describe how going from 20 million to 15 million affects the program. But, I, personally, very much support this and I think it was important that I supported LB 89 but I am concerned about its impacts on the budget and its interrelationship with other issues. I think, as we advance the bill, which I expect we will do, we need to understand its impact in other budget areas.

SPEAKER BAACK: Time. Thank you, Senator Wesely. The next speaker on the advancement, Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, education in this state will change. As much as some people in this body may not think it should, it will. America will be forced to change and when America changes so will the State of Nebraska. We have made some big decisions in education these last couple of years. Probably the biggest one was changing the constitutional amendment to take the power away from the Board of Regents. We realized that there were some problems with our university system. We chose to change that method of educating our students and we created a coordinating commission. I supported that constitutional amendment because I felt that change was needed at that level. And change will take place on how we educate our children from kindergarten to the 12th grade. I see this as a bold experiment, LB 91. And I guess I'm disappointed. I'm disappointed because when we originally talked about this concept two years ago they had a portion in there that provided for some experimentation. Part of it was business as usual with reduction of property taxes. Part of it was business as usual by giving teachers additional money because we liked them, we appreciate the work they do. But part of it, \$15 million of that \$150 million request was to provide for some experimentation to reward the teachers that are doing a good job in the classroom. And that is the only way that we're going to see our educational system get better. We took an experiment a few years ago on the choice bill. That experiment, I didn't know how it was going to work but I think it's a good concept and I think it will work in the future once school districts become a part of it, once they take the step forward and say, yeah, we're willing to be in competition with our neighboring school districts because we have the best educational system in our area and we are willing to take that challenge. Until school districts take that challenge, until teachers take that