

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Nelson. Senator Horgan, followed by Senator Robinson. Senator Horgan.

SENATOR HORGAN: Thank you, Madam President. I simply want to make a couple of points. One being that these are...the assumption cannot be made that these are wealthy families and that they're able to make a choice and to send their kids. As a matter of fact, one of the parents lives in the South High area, sends two children to District 66, is paying close to \$8,000 a year. It would be cheaper for her, a single mother, to move into District 66 and to just freely send her children there. But, for whatever reason, she chooses to live where she does and wants her children to have the educational opportunity that she perceives in District 66. This is a finite group of people, this is not an extension. This is not a number that's going to grow, it's a number that's going to shrink. There was a previous amendment offered on the floor that dealt with the Lincoln district that is not using option...not allowing students to option in, and it will allow those students who have been paying tuition, going to the Lincoln Public Schools, to continue to go to the Lincoln Public Schools and not pay the tuition. This seems to me to be a very similar situation. We have students who opted out of the Omaha Public Schools and went to District 66, paid the tuition, and now we're saying just as those families who opted into Lincoln and paid tuition, these families opted into 66 and paid tuition, because we want to encourage choice and because we want to be fair we ought to allow the families who have already made the commitment to go to Lincoln to not pay tuition, we ought to do the same thing, it seems to me, to those families who opted to go to 66. They shouldn't have to pay the tuition. There also...Choice is a very difficult question, and it's tough to be fair and equal with everybody. But if a family lives in the Millard School District, under 207, moves...options their kid to District 66 for a year, doesn't pay tuition, then moves into the Omaha Public Schools, that child is allowed to continue in the District 66 schools throughout his entire educational career and not pay tuition. That's in 207. Is that fair, while the families who have for ten years, perhaps, paid tuition to go to 66, they're not allowed, for the next maybe four years, to send their children to 66, they have to pay tuition, where other families are able to use the system and the loopholes that may exist in there, to option their kids to 66 and then move into OPS and continue to have their kids go to 66 schools and not pay