

preexisting standardized test off of the shelf some place, applying that to all of the students in the state and using that for comparison purposes. I would not be in favor of doing that. Reason is because I'm not sure those standardized tests measure what it is we want our students to be able to do here in Nebraska. So the first step in this process is to determine what it is we want our students to be able to do and then develop those assessment mechanisms. So that's one key difference. Secondly, and since...since you and I came into the Legislature even, there's been a lot of work nationally done on this whole idea of I think the...the key buzzword is authentic assessment, where you get away from maybe pen and pencil tests and do...look at things like student performance, portfolios of written work, demonstrations, other...other means of...of assessing student performance and a lot of the best brain power in education policy around the country has been applied to this area. So I think it is, and thirdly, this is not, unlike some of those other bills that, that have been kind of dumped on the education community from outside. This is one in which they will be able to participate. They will not be the majority stockholders in the partici...in the creation of it, but they'll be able to participate, so I guess I would say that those are what distinguishes this between earlier approaches that receive a lot of opposition from...from folks within the education lobby. Fourth, finally to be very blunt and pragmatic about it, I think a lot of those realize that the...the patience and tolerance of people like you and me to continue to say we have a problem in education so the solution is let's spend more money on it, without attaching some accountability to that, our patience is running fairly...fairly thin. And I think they see that the next thing that needs to happen is an accountability factor in education before we push a whole lot more money into the...into the process. If...I'll yield back the remainder of your time if I've provoked any thoughts or comments on your part.

SENATOR MOORE: No, just thank you for your response. It was very good.

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

SENATOR DIERKS: Madam President and members of the body, I just had to stand in support of this legislation. I have been serving for the last two or three months on a university's admissions standards committee and one of the statistics that