

and again just in conclusion, we're not making a commitment to teachers here, we're making a commitment to the people of the State of Nebraska to fully fund this bill. If we're going to have economic development in our state, if we're going to bring the large multinational corporations here to do the kinds of things that we want them to do and to encourage employment, we need to enhance our education system and having teachers paid at in the bottom ten states in the Union is not reflective of a good solid balance between education and economic development. So I think, in conclusion, we have an opportunity here in my lowly little LB 1272 to reach some good conclusions, both for the Highway Trust Fund and for the excellence in education funding bill and I hope that we can accomplish both. Please, let's let the debate go on, let's not reconsider or abandon this effort at this point. It's premature and let's see how the debate goes. Thank you, Madam.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Ashford. Before we continue with debate I would like to call your attention to the south balcony. Special guests of all the senators today are 123 sophomore and junior high school students from across the state here for the Nebraska Farm Bureau and accompanied by a teacher. Would you please rise and be recognized. Welcome to the chambers today. Thank you. Also, Senator Robinson would like to recognize Dr. Andrew Brainard of Tekamah who is serving as doctor of the day today on behalf of the Nebraska Academy of Family Physicians. Welcome, Dr. Brainard. Thank you. Senator Nelson, followed by Senators Lamb, Hefner, Lynch, Bernard-Stevens, Robinson and Ashford. Senator Nelson. Senator Lamb. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I rise to support Senator Wehrbein's reconsideration motion. Our highway needs in Nebraska are great. We cannot afford to jeopardize the accelerated program that we're on because we certainly need better roads here in Nebraska. We need them for a number of reasons and number one reason is economic development. Also, we need to have good roads both north and south because we want to attract more tourists and with poor roads you cannot attract these tourists and tourist business is really growing in Nebraska and so I would hate to see that jeopardized. Also, I know in some particular counties and cities in northeast Nebraska they need the money that they receive out of the Highway Trust Fund to continue their road program. Like I told you the other day we have some school