

statistics and see where those...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR WARNER: ...accidents are caused and people are injured because of a road that is not built to substantial standards, that, too, becomes a very significant factor and loss to the economy through injuries as well as personal tragedy. So I'd urge that you would reconsider the vote on this bill and maintain what has been an exceedingly significant...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR WARNER: ...factor in this state and that's an improved highway system and allow that to be continued.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Withem. Are there sufficient seconds? We'll continue with debate. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Madam President, members, I'll be brief at this point. It's not my intention to unnecessarily prolong the debate, but I simply wanted to say that it's pretty much strictly hard line to me, it's a matter of policy with this issue. I'm not opposed to helping teachers. I have voted accordingly in previous years. It just simply seems to me that this Highway Trust Fund should be maintained for what it was originally intended to and that is roads. It's appropriate the taxes are on vehicles that use the roads. It just seems to me that we should maintain the integrity of this system that's been established for many, many, many years in Nebraska. We have an ongoing need for roads, we have an ongoing need for maintenance of roads in Nebraska. We all know the infrastructure across this country as well as Nebraska in terms of our roads, is very much in need of increased repair and maintenance. We have a lot of bridges in Nebraska both at the highway, state, county, local level and these are going to have to be maintained and repaired in time and I'm afraid that if we keep cutting into the Highway Trust Fund as this proposal will do, we're going to have to make that money up somewhere. And in due time we are simply going to have to find some other source of funding for this area, perhaps in terms of block grants or whatever. We have this fund in place. It is a dependable source of funding. It is something the counties and villages can depend on and here again it's something that is not adequate even for them at this particular