

spend millions of dollars, millions and millions of dollars on our education. The bill that we passed a couple of years ago, LB 1059, was a system where it was not based upon excellence in education. It was based upon property taxes. I think that was a mistake. I think we should have had things in that bill that would try to excite educators in the classroom to do even a better job to educate our children. And that's why I'm supporting this particular proposal. We have to make a stand. We have to make these types of difficult decisions, but it's my hope that this will be a successful program and that, in the long run, we will use this as a model for funding education in the future.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Abboud. Before I go to the next speaker, I would like to introduce some guests of all of the senators this morning and they are in the south balcony, and they are members of the Nebraska Retail Federation Board of Directors and John Miller is their Chairman. Would you folks please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you for being with us. Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. Speaker and members, I would request that we cease debate and I would also like to request that we have a call of the house and a roll call vote. Call the question and a roll call vote.

SPEAKER BAACK: Do I see five hands? I do. We will now vote on ceasing debate. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. We are voting on ceasing debate. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 3 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Debate has ceased. I will go to Senator Ashford for closing on the advancement of LB 1272. Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, I'm going to give Senator Bernard-Stevens a portion of my time in closing since, obviously, most of the debate on this issue has been on the teacher pay bill. I want to address, just very briefly, my portion of LB 1272 which deals with the...as you may remember if you reach back in your deep, dark reaches of your memories, the basic bill which was to cut \$1.7 million out of an existing program which is a \$5 million program called the Wards of the Court Program. As I said before when I went through this bill,