

SENATOR HORGAN: ..and I do have, you know, the Omaha Public Schools is the largest school district in the state. They experience more growth in students than any other district in the state, yet they will lose money because the size of their district proportionately is not growing as fast as other districts and so their need won't justify it. And I, obviously, think that I, you know, you have a conflict here and, obviously, I think a lot of us are going to have conflicts because we have different school districts that have different needs and they're growing at different rates, but over all I guess Senator Schrock is probably right that these districts have that need now and it may make sense that we go ahead and do that, but I am torn a little bit in what Senator Bernard-Stevens was saying, that there are districts who are not prepared for this change and for us to be throwing this change out at this point does give me some concern, and so I...I just think we needed to have a little bit of this dialogue to explain what was going on. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Time. Thank you, Senator Horgan. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I'd like to look at the whole package here a minute, LB 719. We have a hold harmless clause in there and, you know, you look at these sheets, you look, well, my school district loses money, but if we don't pass hold harmless for two years, and I would like to commend Senator Withem, he is supporting hold harmless. Does it benefit his school districts? Absolutely not. But in the interest of fairness and in the interest of not confusing the issue now because we don't know whether the constitutional amendment's going to pass, if all personal property is going to go on or just the personal property that's depreciated, there's going to be a lot of confusion in these rural school districts. And if we don't pass that two-year hold harmless, Senator Haberman or Senator Robinson, you have some districts that will probably lose money big time. And so I think that's been the concession made to some of these rural districts and I think that same concession should be made to the rapid growth districts by these rural districts. Look at what hold harmless does for you. Look at what hold harmless does for you. Does that benefit you? If it does, then I think we should accept this whole package here in the interest of fairness. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Before I proceed to the next speaker, I would like to introduce some guests of the