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on the educational side. And I would hope, Senator Schimek, that maybe in January we can come back and set some guidelines on that if we are...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...(interruption), there are programs that we need to help us in Nebraska to progress forward as well. And I think we can work on those and I hope this is a step forward. I will be voting for the bill, but there are some questions that still need to be answered. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. Perhaps not exactly on topic but a little bit, at this point we are all tired and we simply want to draw this day and the meaty part of this session to a conclusion. But the debate on this issue, and some of the research that many of the bodies have made indicate to me a deeper problem that we have inherited from past sessions of the Legislature. When discussions of K-12 education or perhaps even our postsecondary have taken place, I have heard lots of conversations about performance-based criteria. This program that we are addressing in LB 10 is one, too, one of many where perhaps in the next session and the sessions to come we are going to have to more closely examine what we are hoping to accomplish. To put to example, the tuition assistance program, just like the guard, is a dual purpose program; one, certainly a recruitment tool to encourage young men and women to join the Army or the Air National Guard, but, secondly, and probably more importantly, it is a program that is designed to upgrade the quality of those people by encouraging further education beyond what they have when they first enlist. And if the second of those objectives is equally as important as the first, then it is my belief that we need to revisit this program in another year, and certainly more programs, and it might be incumbent upon us to convert this to a loan program, rather than a direct grant, with a credit for years of successful service, so that we don't have people leaving the guard immediately upon completion of their education. I think we can make improvements in this and to say that this is the only program we fund that has that problem would be an error on my part. We have, as always happens in hard times, serious decisions to make, and those serious