

there are a number of other resolutions that have been introduced this year calling on the federal government to continue funding of X program and Y program. We have to realize that as we do this we're sending one message to Washington. The other message, though in general, talking about needing to balance the state budget...the federal budget and cut the deficit and do it without raising taxes at the federal level, and all of that rhetoric, may, in fact, run counter to this. Again, like Senator Maurstad, I am going to vote in favor of this resolution, but I think members ought to be aware of sending mixed messages. And if we truly do want these programs to continue, we're going to have to ask ourselves how high a priority are these versus our support of a balanced budget versus our support of no further federal taxes versus all of the other issues out there. The fact that we see a need to introduce this resolution means that the people back in Washington are making very strong noises about cutting federal government, cutting back what the federal government spends. And as they do that we're going to find that programs that we think are very critical to us are on the chopping block. Today it's this one, tomorrow it may be federal impact aid back in my area of Sarpy County, it may be any number of other federal programs that we think are important. This one, I happen to think, is critically important. I think it's one that the Educational Television group in Nebraska have been national leaders, and I do, in fact, think it's quite important, but I'm kind of of a mixed mind here on how much of this we should be doing if we are going to be among those states, in the next few weeks, that's going to tell the federal government that they do in fact need to balance their budget. So I will be...just asking people to, as they vote on this type of resolution, to keep that perspective in mind. It's somewhat like our people here in our state Appropriations Committee who...we all want to balance the budget, but we all want them to include our specific program within that budget. I'm really not sure where I'm going with this. I'm trying to come to an end of my thoughts because they are really going in two different directions. I think Senator Crosby is right, I will just stop.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Hillman, your light is next.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Yes, Madam President. members of the Legislature, I'd like to focus on part of the resolution that talks about distance learning. And I agree with many of the