

that we have to pay for something that we can already walk to the library to get if we need it or get off our cable TV. We do have access. You can get it at the schools, the libraries, all of these things we do have access to. And another thing, if we send this along to Congress with a majority of votes on this floor and they still cut educational television and public broadcasting, then are you as a state willing to take up the difference in the monies that that will cost? Is that how committed you are to this? Are you saying that you want this so bad that you're willing to take the money out of our state budget to keep these things going from now and forever, forever? And I just want to make sure that you understand that that's what you're saying with this type of a resolution to a group of people who are under the gun right now to make some very difficult cuts. We've asked them to do it. We've sent a whole lot of new people down there to carry those wishes through and now you are prepared as a legislature to tell them, oh, cut somewhere else, don't cut here. This is what everybody is going to be saying to these people. They're going to be pulled in 100 different directions, so please, as leaders, as elected officials start making some of these decisions based on the facts and not on what you want. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Bohlke, followed by Senators Wickersham and Crosby.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Mr. President, members, I haven't spoken on this previously. It has been interesting listening to the discussion here and listening to the reasoning as to why we should or should not support this. Senator Witek talks about are you willing to put your money into this and ensuring this into the future? Well, Senator Witek, yes, I am and so are Nebraskans across the state. We did not always have public radio until very recently even in our part of the state and we went out and I was part of the committee that went out to raise money for public radio. It has been something that as we heard testimony in our committee from the woman who came before our committee who was retired and said, how it had opened an entire world to her, that she could...and it is that she could take advantage of it and how much she appreciated it and so I think there are some things, as I believe Senator Schimek pointed out, whether it be the preschooler to the retired person on a fixed income, that this does bring all kinds of opportunities to this state and, yes, I am willing to say that Congress, this is one area the State of Nebraska does not want you to cut. I support