

issue that he is raising. I am always somewhat mystified when the issue is raised in the manner that it has been, presented to you as the issue of whether or not this Legislature can bind future legislatures. Well, in my analysis we do it all the time. Every bill that we pass in this Legislature is binding and effective not only on the Legislature, but all citizens of the State of Nebraska until 25 votes and a Governor's signature changes it. That's simply the way the system works. We start programs, for example, all the time or at least we used to. I don't think we do as much of that as we used to, but we start programs that are going to be binding on future legislatures to fund until 25 votes say that we won't. We do it all the time, philosophically, we do it all the time. And I believe that Senator McKenzie was right when she suggested that the analysis that was being made of this particular issue is at odds with the analysis that we make of other economic development issues, particularly when we fund those programs, those economic development programs with credits, tax credits. When we fund those programs with tax credits, what have we done? We have indirectly done what Senator McKenzie's bill in a very forthright way says that we will do. The only difference between the two paths, if you will, is in one example you can see the dollars, in the other one you can't unless you ask the Department of Revenue or you read the reports that the Department of Revenue publishes telling you how many tax dollars we have shoveled out the door through credits or exemptions. You can find the numbers if you want to look for them. I think Senator McKenzie has done an honest and forthright process in the amendment that she has offered to you. At least you know what your dollar commitment is. It isn't hidden in a volume that is tied to a tax credit. In fact, I would favor this approach over the use of tax credits because you do know what commitment you're making, you do know how much it's going to cost and you do still have the opportunity with 25 votes and a Governor's signature in a later legislative body to change the policy. It is not written in stone, nothing in this body is written in stone.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Coordsen, your light is next on the Withem amendment. Senator Withem, for what purpose do you rise?

SPEAKER WITHEM: I would withdraw the amendment.

SENATOR HALL: The amendment is withdrawn. Next item on the