

the schools are concerned, it is an unfunded mandate because they did not receive any money for that. The current statute recognizes technology as one of the uses of the Education Innovation Fund. LB 860 does not represent a major policy change from what we have already established. It merely recognizes the urgent need now to get Internet into our schools, and I'd be happy to respond to any questions that you might have.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Robinson. You've heard the opening on LB 860. The speakers are in this order, Senator Janssen, Senator Witek, Senator Maurstad, and Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Janssen, you are recognized on speaking to the bill.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Mr. Chairman and members of the body, I rise in support of Senator Robinson's bill. I believe it is probably getting to one of the fairer ways of distributing the lottery fund money that there is, and I've had a lot of schools that have come to me and said, you know, we didn't get in on any of the block grants that came from the lottery fund where you had to write a grant to get some of this money. Some of the schools, the larger schools have paid grant writers that are within their systems. Other schools, smaller schools can't afford that luxury, and it was amazing to see that some of the smaller schools that didn't have the paid grant writers were recipients of the lottery money, some of them in some pretty large chunks. I have a small school that did receive some of the money, and what better...what better way is there to even this thing out and to give all of the schools an opportunity to cash in on some of the lottery money, which was...the forty some percent was allotted to. I can't see a better or fairer way to do this, and after all, this is where the money was intended to go. Maybe there needs to be a few changes in the bill, and, hopefully, they can be straightened out with people that have some problems with them, and I would be willing to help anyone that would like to try to modify, modify the bill to their liking, but I think Senator Robinson has got a good idea, and I support it thoroughly, and I will continue to do so as long as it is within the range of what he intends to do, and I give the remainder of my time to Senator Robinson. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Senator Witek, your light is next.