

on the amendment.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Mr. Speaker and members, I think you've heard a really good discussion on this issue and I think probably as Senator Lynch indicated, it's a much different discussion that we've heard in the past as far as when we've talked about school consolidation. I think that, as I indicated, this is something that has, that Senator Wickersham and Senator Withem have both worked on for a number of years and one that I think really does hold out an opportunity for schools to remove one of the barriers or disincentives for not looking at consolidation. You've heard the arguments and the examples from many people on the floor. I would just say to you that certainly looking that you have Senator Wickersham on the bill from Harrison, Senator Withem from Papillion and myself from Hastings, is clearly representative of I think the type of support you've heard from school districts across the state and certainly on the floor of the Legislature. And lastly, you heard Senator Withem hint at bills that may come later, talking about what would actually be incentives for school and how we will have further discussion on what other bills are out there that may get schools moving forward in the direction of consolidation. And lastly, I would say that working with Senator Wickersham and Senator Withem at the request of the Governor and carrying the bill has indeed been a thrill. And so I'm happy that we are now at this point with everyone standing up and saying that they support the bill and will be supporting to move it forward and I also thank Senator Schrock for prioritizing the bill because I think it was very important to get to it this session. One thing that is also important is it does have the emergency clause and that is very necessary for some of the school districts that are looking towards this consolidation. So with that I urge your support of the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. You've heard the close on the amendment. The question is, shall the amendment be adopted? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Bohlke's amendment.

SENATOR HALL: The Bohlke amendment is adopted. Before we move on, Senator Wickersham has guests in the north balcony, ten eighth graders from Harrison Grade School and four adults who