

Senator Avery has had obviously a number of amendments to the budget bill. This one is a real doozie from my perspective. It doesn't appear to be very well thought out for many of the reasons that Senator Bernard-Stevens has already outlined, so I won't go through those all again except to say that I think it's absolutely in the wrong direction to go to remove any intent language. We have very little control over the university and state college systems as it is and to give any of that up voluntarily seems like to me to be not prudent policy. Secondly, there's been absolutely no substantiation and just a lot of generalized conversation that the university and the state college systems are not using their dollars wisely. And I guess if I were a part of that, either of those systems I'd take offense to that. Certainly everybody needs to be held to very high standards, very high scrutiny. They are willing to stand that test, but I think it needs to be substantiated with specific situations where they are not using their dollars wisely. Now, obviously, I've just laid down a challenge for those that would like to reduce and I think the university and the state colleges would be willing to accept that challenge. And finally, the main argument once again for Senator Avery's motion that is before us is that we're mandating to others and we need to live under the same circumstances that we're mandating to others. That is a fallacy. I'm going to state once again, we're talking about limiting, except for school districts, property tax revenue only. We're not limiting the spending of local subdivisions by the lid bills. People, I hope, understand that now. I hope they continue to understand it. Obviously, the press accounts over the weekend, the last couple days continue to use this as an argument. It's not a valid argument. At some point in time I hope people quit using it as a valid argument because it is not. I think that the amendment needs to be defeated and we need to move on to other items. Thank you, Madam President.

**PRESIDENT ROBAK:** Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator Dierks would like to announce that the following guests are visiting the Legislature. We have 30 fifth and sixth graders and their sponsor here from Elgin Public School in Elgin, Nebraska. They are all in the north balcony. Will you stand and be recognized, please. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Crosby, your light is next.

**SENATOR CROSBY:** Thank you, Madam President and members, and, Senator Avery, I'll say one thing, you're consistent. This is