

Technology Fund, authorized under Section 2 of the act, and receipts from the Education Innovation Fund that are used for the purpose of direct hookup on the Internet, shall be counted as resources under the 1059 formula. You know it may be that what you want to do is to take away money essentially from some poorer schools and give it to some richer schools, but it seems to me that at least if you're going to do that, you ought to say with respect to the schools that are getting this money, as we say to them on all other resources that they have, that this money you receive needs to be counted as a resource and built into the 1059 factor so we can determine whether you really need equalization money or whether you do not. And that's what this amendment attempts to do so that if, for example, you have two equal school districts and one of them gets the technology money and the other doesn't, at least the one who doesn't, assuming they're both equalization districts, ought to be able to get a little more equalization out of the whole formula in order to make up for that technology money which they didn't get, especially when the assumption I'm making is that they're exactly the same kinds of school districts. They have exactly the same needs and abilities and you ought not to punish the one, who does not get the money, twice by, one, not giving them the money and by, two, not making it count against the other fellow's resources. Well, I would let it stand at that and hear the arguments against that. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senators Will and Hall would like to announce two very special guests visiting the Legislature today, former Senator Bernice Labedz who is now county commissioner in Douglas County and Kathy Kelley are here from Omaha. They are both under the south balcony. Will you stand and be recognized, please. Welcome back, Senator. Senator Witek, your light is next.

SENATOR WITEK: Madam Chairman, members of the body, this is something that I hadn't even considered and I appreciate Senator Beutler bringing this to my attention and all senators attention. I think another area that should be considered is then money that has already been invested by all these school districts should be considered into the 1059 formula, into that equitable 1059 formula. That might be a fair way to do it, to go about it and not actually have the dollars but just have the dollars that every one of those school districts has already invested considered when they're distributing the 1059 money. And if it starts off with an amendment like this, for Senator