

want to be sincere when they talk to their constituents about doing something about property taxes need to be aware of these types of bills. I hope everyone's taken the time to actually look at 700A and kind of the slick thing that's going on with...that I, and that's my term, that's going on with how this is being done. I say if you, if you want to have a HFLP fund, a teacher HELP fund, a merit pay fund for teachers, and many senators on this floor voted to have that, and that was in an election year. Then they turned around and have never funded it. And I would probably not have voted for the fund in the beginning understanding that there's, that there's some financial problems that I think have been being ignored by the Legislature and the executive branch for a number of years. And so this is just one more example of a program that was put together for political purposes, I believe, to placate the teachers union and then turning around and taking that program and since it's never been fully funded, not even near fully funding, going ahead and taking that over \$7 million and turning it into a COLA for all state employees. So it totally blasts what you even started the program for and yet it manages to keep that over \$7 million a year, this is a yearly expense, a year out of the General Fund money. So if you're talking about cutting spending and forcing a local government to cut spending and all this stuff, it really rings hollow when you keep pushing bills like this forward. And I know we had this same discussion on 592, your mandating to Douglas and Lancaster counties some more expenditures of property taxes. And then you go and tell people that you don't have anything to do with property taxes, and you say that with a straight face. And yet you keep voting for it, the Governor keeps signing these things, I, I don't know when it's going to stop. As a taxpayer, all I can say is I hope it stops soon because the jokes out there that will the last taxpayer in Nebraska please shut off the lights are not funny to me. There's a lot of families that I know that are having some problems, that are considering leaving the state because they simply cannot handle the tax burden or the future tax burden. And that's something I want to bring up before you vote this forward too is understanding that this is in perpetuity, this goes on forever. You vote for something like this into a retirement program, and it goes on forever. It's not just an appropriations like in the HELP fund, that if you wanted to in a short year that you could go ahead and do without and cut it out and save that money, and then in a flush year go ahead and refund it. That's not the kind of appropriation this is.