

but it's interesting the way we from time to time, on rare occasions, have been on opposing sides of an issue. And I would share with you, Senator Beutler, that were I able to waive a magic wand and didn't need 25 votes and signature of a Governor, I would dispense with what we're doing and replace it with a program that would cost 5 or \$600 million and would insure the payment of the classroom costs, the educational costs of K-12 education in the state of Nebraska. I would probably fund it all or in part with a one percent or so tax on all of our income before we get credits and that sort of thing and you would have property tax relief on every square inch, every house, everything in Nebraska. But I don't have that magic bullet within my power grasp, and we're in a situation where we have to lay a foundation for the future, I believe. Our current situation, not only through the property tax support, but through our formulas and how they are computed relative to state aid to education, create scenarios, Senator Beutler, across Nebraska where there are children in K-12 systems who are significantly disadvantaged for reasons not of their own cause, primarily because of the place in the state their parents live. And I think you raised some valid concerns and certainly interest me because I, along with the other 48 members, do not want in any way to damage the education system anymore than it's already been damaged by our current system. When you look at areas where there's fundamentally low income, and we talk about equalization, but for some strange reason that doesn't work the way we envision it in many cases, that we don't have a very good system today, with a heavy reliance on property tax for the support of K-12 systems. We look...we use artificial measures, cost per pupil, for an example, is a measure. Many times in some of the systems certainly those in the sparsely populated areas that cost per pupil may represent minimal, minimal programs, minimal opportunities, where a cost per pupil in a more advantaged area could have many more times the programs and two-thirds of the cost per pupil. So there are so many areas that we need to look. I have passed through, hopefully, the children in the classroom, but I have grandchildren and they're getting a good education, and I don't think anyone wants to do that. And if we could get any assurance that we had a signature from the northeast corner of the Capitol...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...on shifting some of the support to other