

Beutler, I'm not sure we can bind a future legislative body. But I would think that certainly all 49 senators would not be willing to have what...the ramifications this could have on schools. And so I appreciate what Senator Beutler is articulating in his concern and wanting to provide that safeguard at this stage of the debate. But if we do, I have a feeling that we will lose a larger argument with the general public. And so at this point I think that 1114, as it is, does provide that reality check and does say to those people, it's time for you to decide, here are the cuts that would be there, and then it still gives us the opportunity to come back, as state senators, and say, we've had the discussions but as state senators we believe that these are the steps that we need to do, to make sure that quality education continues in the state of Nebraska. And I believe that the majority of the state senators, whoever they may be, will be committed to doing that. Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. President. I certainly agree with the statements that have been made relative to schools being important to kids. But I have to take...probably getting to the point of agitating some, but I have to take the opportunity to say that cities and counties and county fairs and community colleges and NRDs, to name just a few, are also important to kids. And it's also important to their future what we're doing right now. And I guess what I continue to visualize in my mind is that Clint Eastwood movie where he's standing outside the village, a little town, country town, after they brought him in to help clean the things up. And you see the party shot with the whole town painted red. I don't know whether any of you have seen that particular movie and/or in other movies, with the tumble weeds blowing down the streets as the old, decrepit buildings fall while the camera passes by, because I believe that what we have is a situation where if all of the reaction occurs that has been anticipated by these severe cuts, and if there isn't the diligence to provide additional state resources, I think there are going to be a lot of parents sitting down with their children and grandchildren as they chart their future and try to make a decision on whether or not it's rational for them to stay in Nebraska, because Nebraska offers them hope and opportunity and the good life that a lot of us