

some of those because I am remembering back in '84 we passed LB 994, and in that we said things like, the Legislature hereby finds and declares that the mission of the state of Nebraska through its public school system is to offer each individual the opportunity to develop competence in the basic skills of communication, computations, and knowledge. That hasn't gotten us into any lawsuits. Offer each individual the opportunity to develop higher order thinking skills, I shouldn't have pointed out that's in our statutes probably, I should have read that before I...and problem solving skills by means of adequate reparation. I mean these are, I don't want to downplay it, because it's purposely a strong statement to remind us that this is not just an interim study, that's it my intention that we pass this and we do it next year. And so if we do it next year, there won't be any problems. But, historically, statements of findings like this I don't think have been declared to convey an automatic right on somebody enforceable in the court, either, and that seems to be the concern that generated from some of the people in the lobby, who don't have anything better to do today, I guess. We've made this bill too easy for them maybe. So they're...I know they are generating some of these concerns. I certainly don't see that as conveying any right which can be litigated.

SENATOR WILL: So in your mind, Senator Withem, the recognition language is more of an acknowledgement that the process of funding and establishing standards for education is an ongoing process and something that the Legislature is expressing continuous interest in, as opposed to a fixed statement of a condition that exists out there?

SPEAKER WITHEM: That would be my understanding.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Robak announces that the following guests are visiting the Legislature today. Ada Marsh is here from Columbus, and Sue Korger, with her children Pat, Michael and Stephanie Korger are all here. They are sitting under the south balcony. Will you stand and be recognized please. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Abboud, your light is next.

SENATOR ABBOUD: Yes, Madam President. Would Senator Jones