

I've been in the Legislature. On the other hand, as an alternative, a statutory lid is, in my view, always preferable and that's what we're proposing here--a statutory lid. That allows us to move forward. It allows us to apply pressure. Hopefully, it will allow us to see some progress on creating greater efficiency in our school systems and our other local subdivisions but, again, in my view, you will see more than efficiencies. You will see an actual loss of quality and services over a period of time. I worry particularly about our schools. Senator Bernard-Stevens talked about his impact in talking to some Girl Scouts. I have three young children, two of them in our public school system in Lincoln, and they benefit from the excellent schools we have here. I know how difficult it is for them even now to provide for the needs, under the current budget, for our children in our schools. We have Quonset huts set up next to schools where students are forced to go to for their education. I know of schools that are looking at choices between having an arts program, a counseling program, or a computer program, not being able to do all three but only being able to do one. We are seeing already, with the current limitations and budgets that we have in place with the current statutes, effects on our schools and I think this further reduction in those lids will have greater consequences as well. I worry about those consequences. I worry about what will happen to children in our schools and I think ultimately it is my hope that, though the effort of this legislation and LB 1114, the consequence of that will be greater knowledge among the public as to what we are spending our public dollars on in our local subdivisions, our schools, our counties, our cities, that the public will see the value they get for the taxes that they pay. They will understand that when they pay their property taxes they get good schools. They hopefully have good roads. They hopefully have access to services that they have a need of and that they are not simply spending money without having a return for that investment that they're making in our local subdivisions. I think there are efficiencies to be made. I support those efforts to have those efficiencies and I am going to support this bill to hopefully achieve some more. But ultimately, ultimately I think we will revisit and reconsider in the next year to two, before we ultimately take the steps that are envisioned by this package, and reconsider whether or not long term it's in the best interest of the state to do this. And I think short term it makes sense to move forward, in short term it makes sense to apply the pressure and see how we might