

remarkable piece of work and, although the discussion has been going on for a long, long time, the parts and pieces haven't all come to mesh until the last few weeks. And I commend the work and the commitment and, as I go out and visit with school districts and city clerks and mayors, I don't have any qualms about telling them that we have made a commitment, Senator Warner has made a commitment, Revenue Committee has made a commitment that this is part of a process and that this is only one piece of work of the entire project but it's a very important piece of the project. So I don't have qualms about voting for this bill. I am... I am proud to have the opportunity to do it and I realize that our work is far from done. We'll be back at the... be back at the desk and burning the midnight oil getting the rest of the package put together next year, but this is an excellent start. I think it should go a long ways in restoring, if not the confidence of everyone else, at least our confidence in ourselves in the ability to take on a very, very difficult project and make substantial progress in accomplishing the goals. Now the people may choose to do something different than what we're suggesting here and if they do they do. That's the democratic process. But I think we have given them a road map here which is one that I hope they will look at very carefully and agree that in the long run Nebraska and all of Nebraska, schools, cities, villages, will be better off for having taken this journey in the manner in which we're doing it, deliberately, carefully, but with significant steps, an impact that will eventually I think allow our respective political subdivisions to function longer and more efficiently than they would have otherwise if we had let things just go as they were. Thank you for your time and I hope you'll support 1114.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I've been around educators a long time, probably more than most people in the body have, certainly with some exceptions--those that have been in the education field itself. And everyone talks about the meeting they were at yesterday and, you know what, a just kind of chuckle at that because I don't think people understand yet what educators are like in the state of Nebraska. Yeah, they'll make it work. I mean these are the people that teach for something that you and I would not want to do. They work with the... all of the mandates we give them. They have a class size somewhere between 28 to 40, the