

stated, I've listened carefully to the debate and respect everyone for caring very passionately about this issue. One statement, though, that caught my ear was one that said that this was an easy vote for many of us, and I stand to say I don't think it's an easy vote. I don't think it's an easy vote for even the members of the Revenue Committee bringing it out onto the floor. I had a call, like many of you, from a teacher who said to me, how could you as a former educator and as Chair of the Education Committee possibly vote for LB 299 and 1114? And I thought about that before writing back and this is what I said. It's because other senators and I care so very much about public education in the state of Nebraska that we think this is necessary. We have a long history in this state of the general population supporting public education. You've talked...you've heard me talk this session about Southern Valley and a \$7 million bond issue and the auditorium filled with senior citizens who were supporting that. We have a long history of that kind of partnership with our schools. But as I look to the future, if we do not listen, if we turn a deaf ear to those people who say we need to do things differently, if we turn a deaf ear to those people who say I support public education but I'm at the limit of my property tax, if we turn a deaf ear to those people who say we must start to get a grip on our spending, if we do not react, then I think we destroy that partnership. And in the end, I believe that's what's devastating to public education in Nebraska. And because of that, I will stand and support these two measures and, no, it's not an easy vote. It's not an easy vote for those of you who will oppose these two measures. But in my opinion, I believe if we do not make...take this step that in the end it will be more devastating for public education and the children in the state of Nebraska. Thank you.

SENATOR WESELY PRESIDING

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Next speaker is Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABBODD: Thank you, Mr. President, members. At the beginning of the session, I had some constituents talking to me about property tax relief and it usually begins along the same lines as all the other years that I come down here and every year we talk about property tax relief and we talk about it and talk about it and we kind of bite off pieces along the side but