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light of some other things that we're doing? For example, just a few days ago you passed a compact. Do you remember what that compact did? It required us to cooperate with other states in matters of emergencies. So maybe that enhanced measure of cooperation, which I thoroughly applaud, maybe that says something like maybe we can do with a little smaller guard here if we know we're getting cooperation from other states, and vice versa elsewhere. That's efficiency. That's what should be happening. And I would like Senator Janssen to comment on that and discuss whether or not we should factor in that compact and what it means with regard to whatever strength the guard needs. I don't know how they establish strength or how they gear that or whether it is just a traditional measure, it's always been the same. I would like to hear more about that too. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. The Chair recognizes Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Madam (sic) President, mem...Mr. President, excuse me, Mr. President and members of the body, I rise in strong support of this bill, and I knew what the discussion was going to be when we got up to the floor with this bill. There was no question in my mind about our decision-making process here. But I want to try to make a few points for you this morning that I think are important points to make. Number one is this is an investment in our future. This is an investment in those people in the guard who are going to continue to live in the state of Nebraska, and I wish you could have been there to hear the testimony because there were some of these young people who probably were going to have a very difficult time getting their college education, possibly not getting their college education without the guard assistance. The second point, and I can't...I can't emphasize the first point too strongly. Let's not be penny wise and pound foolish. The second point I would like to make this morning is that there are 16 other states, at the moment, who have passed legislation for 100 percent guard tuition. It was interesting, and I noted at the hearing, in the Albany, New York, Times Union, a reporter wrote, New York's lawmakers realized the importance of a strong guard three years ago when the legislature unanimously passed a bill to give free college tuition to new recruits. And I said, how do they get a bill passed unanimously in their legislature?