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SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, Senator Chambers and I, jokingly at times, and I guess maybe even half seriously, he's asked me where will a guy like him, or where will he specifically stand on the hill and fight. Will it be prairie dogs? Will I fight for prairie dogs? Obviously, the management of prairie dogs is an important aspect of many Nebraskans' lives, but probably doesn't raise the passion level in me that it does in either other folks on this floor, other people in the state. Hunting, fishing, trapping? No, probably not, not for me anyway. But this is interesting. AM1431 is very interesting, and I will stand on a hill and I will fight it. And I will do it for various reasons. Forty, forty-five thousand students in this state attend private schools, in that general vicinity. A good portion...all of their parents or guardians, I should say, are either indirectly or directly paying property taxes or income tax, combination of both, in order to benefit...and maybe they don't realize that, but in order to benefit our public schools. I'm a product of public schools and parochial schools. I can tell you I think the public schools in this state are tremendous and I want them to constantly improve and become better, day by day, month by month, session by session, every year. That would be my goal. But this particular amendment has nothing to do with any of that. The money has been appropriated. These people that pay property taxes and income tax understand that it's their choice to opt out or go to a private school and do what they need...what they feel like they need to do for their children. I think the state constitutionally and statutorily helps them maintain that position. And I don't think statutorily or constitutionally that private school parents and guardians are asking that much with a program like this, especially considering that most of the parents, at least the ones that I've talked to, and I think that, I hope, most of the ones that you talk to, do understand that they like a strong public education...public school education in the state as well, and are more than happy to see their property taxes and income tax injected into that system. I am. I pay almost \$3,000 in property tax a year. I don't know how much...you know, and the funny thing is, I don't know how much income tax is withheld. I'd have to go look at it from my paycheck every year. But