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that at a certain point there's a dynamic of where we need to assert the Legislature, and all I want to say is thank you to the people on both sides, but particularly to those members of the Education Committee who have worked on this a lot for the last three years,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BROWN: ...and worked on it longer than...for longer than that. These are the people that we have decided to trust with the education policy setting and 7 to 1 they have recommended to us that this is an important step for the state of Nebraska. And I think that in this instance we know more about this than the executive branch does, and I think that we need to assert our conclusion as has been represented in the previous votes on this bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Brown. Senator Brashear.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I'll only speak on this once. I wanted to take a moment because I was, at least tangentially, involved. In my 11 years of service in the Legislature, there were more people involved in these discussions and negotiations than any other matter I've ever done. There was great collegiality, but tenacity, demonstrated on both sides of the negotiations, skill and ability. I'm proud of everybody who participated. It's one of the few, if not the only, negotiation I've seen take place here where we were exchanging hard copy of documents. That's how carefully it was done. This is a historically very difficult, difficult subject. I happen to have come from a school district where we just always knew that no matter what any of us had accomplished through the 8th grade that the new people coming in from the Class I schools would be...one of them would be the valedictorian and the other one would be the salutatorian, so...of our high school graduating class. So I'm sorry. I think I understand this, but let's don't let...because this is about process and substance and politics, let's preserve the extraordinarily hard...the extraordinarily hard work, not just of the Education Committee but of the senators from greater Nebraska who represented Class I school districts. And this is