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SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Kruse, followed by Senator Redfield and 12 others.

SENATOR KRUSE: Mr. President and members, thank you. I stand in support of the bill. First, on taxes, sales tax and property tax have been covered, but there are two other taxes that are paid. Parents do pay income tax. I know that because, talking with an attorney, they cannot file for a refund. So all their taxes that are withheld by the employer go to the federal government and do not come back. The same is the case with Social Security tax. Social Security is deducted from their paycheck and is sent in, but they cannot get any benefit from it, even later, because they have no personal account that it can go into. My greatest concern in this whole issue, and I understand persons wrestling with it, is they are our kids. These plainly are our kids. They've been here through school. Whether they...their parents came from someplace else or not is really not a differential as they cross the stage and get their diplomas. Also, they follow through in the tradition of our constitution. The reason that we educate them up through 12th grade is because it's required in the Nebraska Constitution. It says all persons. It doesn't say all persons who can speak English, or all persons who are good looking, or all those who are born in this country or anything. Every person we are required to educate up to the age of 21. I would have a small quarrel with the use of the word "illegals." I guess it's shorthand and, you know, don't want to make much of a fuss about it, but if I ran a stop sign, am I to be labeled an illegal? These persons are not illegal. They...least we could do is continuously add the word "alleged," but it is their parents who did an illegal act as they brought them into the country, but that doesn't make you an illegal in terms of English language. My biggest concern about us as a state is economic development. They stay put. It's already been said. I don't have to dwell on it. I have a good friend who is an attorney and he came back. I said, why did you come back to Nebraska? (Laugh) He said, because this is where I grew up. My dad was...worked in the Lexington packing plant; my sister is an attorney, another sister is a school teacher, and another sister is a police officer; we all came back because this is our home, this is