

Senator Kristensen or Senator Preister. May we proceed? Yes. Mr. Clerk, please proceed with a roll call vote. The question before you is, shall debate cease on the Witek amendment to LB 392.

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Roll call vote taken. See pages 2156 of the Legislative Journal.) 28 ayes, 7 nays to cease debate, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The debate ceases. Senator Witek to close.

SENATOR WITEK: Thank you, Madam Chairman, members of the body. I guess the only question I have to ask those individuals who are supporting this money is how much money would you like to spend on early childhood education? How much money do you want the state to eventually spend? Is it this initial 500 or nearly 500,000 dollars a year for these select...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: We're still under call.

SENATOR WITEK: ...four programs? Is it money to every school district? Is it going to be funded through our 1059 fund money eventually. You support these early childhood education programs, which I do also, but you also support state funding of those programs, which I do not. If we are going to have state funding of four select schools which receive 125,000 dollars each, then let's give every preschool in the State of Nebraska 125,000 dollars from the state. Let's see if we... if we're going to have a policy, let's have a uniform state policy that says that, yes, we the Legislature do support early childhood education for whatever reasons you deem necessary, and let's give every preschool in the State of Nebraska the monies, the same monies, the 125,000 dollars that you are getting, and I'm talking private and public and home schools, those little schools that people set up in the neighborhoods for keeping children in their own neighborhood. Because a lot of the funding that they get from the federal government and the state is only for a select few preschools that people can't even get to. One mother that talked to me in Omaha said she didn't go to the Head Start Preschool because she didn't have transportation to it. And she wanted to have a school in her neighborhood and she sent her kids to a neighborhood individual who was having preschool there at the same place as their day care. So I want you to decide if you're going to go ahead with this 500,000 dollars or 435,000 dollars a year for these four preschools,