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this morning, with a couple of cases...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: ...that school districts have used, or gone into court on, in their states utilizing the equal protection clause, using that and decisions that were based from those school districts. In one particular case, and I supplied Senator Kristensen with both of these cases. I have them on my desk if anyone would like to read those. I want to lay some groundwork here knowing that this is likely to go forward, that everyone who votes for this to go forward is aware that this equal protection clause in our state constitution will more than likely be used for these types of school financing battles. That's not to deny that those types of discussions haven't already occurred in the state of Nebraska. The most recent, I think, in everybody's memory is probably the Gould case that came up in the state of Nebraska. I don't have that. I wish I did to refer to that, but...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time. Senator Witek, your light is on. You may continue.

SENATOR WITEK: Thank you, Madam Chairman. But I believe from memory that the decision of the court at that time was the question that the Gould case brought up was equality in the school districts in the state of Nebraska. Right now, the Nebraska Constitution has one simple statement that the state will pay for children's education 5 through 21 in the state of Nebraska. We will pay for that. The reason Nebraska hasn't been embroiled in a lot of these school financing battles in our court system is because we have that one simple statement that we will provide for that education, we will pay for that. Many of the states that have had more substantial language and have, in particular had equal protection clauses, have been in courtroom battles involving those...that language in their state constitution. In the state of Nebraska, under that case, as I remember, the ruling was that we had agreed, constitutionally, to paying for the education and they avoided, at that time, the discussion of the equality of that education. We've made a lot of changes in our statutory law since particularly 1990, when LB 1059 went in, trying to equalize the education funding in the