

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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March 30, 2000 LB 26

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Debate on the committee amendments? Senator Bohlke, your light is on; waives. Senator Matzke, on the committee amendments? Further debate on the committee amendments?

SENATOR MATZKE: I want to talk on...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Bohlke, you're recognized to close on the committee amendments. Senator Bohlke waives closing. The question is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 26. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Voting on the adoption of the committee amendments. Please record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The committee amendments are agreed to. Debate on the advancement of LB 26? Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Mr. President and members. We in the Education Committee heard testimony in strong support of this. And as we heard it I thought the question very likely will be what Senator Lynch had raised, why should we do this? But yesterday we heard Senator Landis say that today, over 71 percent of the women in this state work, and obviously a higher percentage than that of men. Often times, they leave early; the children catch a bus to school, and even by the time some of those children have to get up, by the time it would be the normal breakfast time they may very well be hungry. This bill has strong support from a number of organizations. One that I thought put it very succinctly happened to come from the National Council of Jewish Women who strongly support the passage which would provide a financial incentive to public school districts to participate in the National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs. As we all know and they state, children who are hungry cannot learn, and sadly enough there are many children in Nebraska who come to school hungry. The biggest obstacle to children participating in the National School Breakfast and Lunch Program is a lack of participation by schools. LB 26 would supplement the federal per meal reimbursement, encouraging more schools to participate in the