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program. We have letters from a number of schools, and I was surprised at the schools that, out in the western part of our state and some of our more rural areas who are very anxious to offer this program to students. As I've said, I think all of us here certainly realize that good nutrition means good learning. In fact, I had said before that I had always wanted to introduce a bill that would have a contract that parents would have to sign, before they sent their children to school, that would say they be well-rested, well-fed, present in the classroom, they provide study time at home and attend teacher conferences. The only problem is in public schools you could require that contract, but what do you do if someone hasn't fulfilled the contract? I would say with the issue of breakfast it's much like, I'm sure, years and years ago before we implemented lunch in the schools, I'm sure we would have had a discussion with that. Times have changed, the statistics prove it. And I don't think because of that that the children should suffer. Certainly, you all know they can do a better job of learning, that's what we try to provide, quality learning in the classroom. This provides for, I hope, an increased number of children to have a better start to that day. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Matzke.

SENATOR MATZKE: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor and members of the Legislature. It may appear unique that I would get up to support this bill, but I've had some personal experience and my wife has also as a volunteer in Headstart. And I've looked into it as a former school board member. And this may look like sort of a drop in the bucket, but I think it's really a significant initiative. I've learned that a lot of children get up in the morning, don't want to eat right away, I've learned that from my own grandchildren. They want to wait a while. I don't know whether their metabolism works different than ours or not, usually when I get up on the morning the first thing I want is a cup of coffee and a piece of toast, but children often won't eat right away, and especially if their parents are working, and of course most of them do, and in most families both are working, they just simply do not have breakfast. And when they go to school, and we've had a pilot program in Sidney that just has done wonderful work and had amazing results. And for the small amount of a nickel a meal, I think it's a significant