

that could be addressed next year. So now is not the time. I would hope that the Legislature would vote to preserve this deficit spending item in Senator Warner's budget proposal.

PRESIDENT: Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, I think we're probably going to be touching on very few homestead issues this year since we've done away with most everything else that we had prior to this time. This particular homestead exemption for the elderly and disabled I think is an honorable program. I think it deals with property tax relief on a very, very small level, but it still is the best way to go. But while we're on homestead exemption we might as well touch on the issue of property tax relief and the fact that the state still does a very poor job of providing property tax relief for the homeowners in this state. We do give it a considerable amount of money in state aid and in addition to programs that we do pick up such as the county court system or municipal court system that we picked up in Douglas and Lancaster County, or excuse me, in the City of Lincoln and the City of Omaha. But the homeowner really doesn't see the benefits of this property tax relief. Now homestead exemption is something that the homeowner sees. The homestead exemption is something that the property taxpayer sees that the state is giving directly back to the homeowner and with these other programs they usually just do not see the money. With the state aid programs they don't see the money. A lot of times it's gobbled up in an improper manner, I feel, by the local political subdivisions, but I don't feel that it is proper for us to not fund this program. I think this is the way to go and in addition I think it should be expanded. I know we do have one proposal that's up for an expansion of this particular program and I wholeheartedly support it and I think we ought to make use of the homestead exemption as the way to funnel all of our state aid to the local political subdivisions. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Pappas.

SENATOR PAPPAS: No other lights, so I'll call the question.

PRESIDENT: Maybe we...thank you, think I'll discourage it for now, Senator. We have only just one light left.