

we spend on the state level, to support the average student, the student who will be the backbone of our economy in the future, has in effect decreased by about \$7 million. We in Nebraska a few years ago passed a bill called 994, with a lot of promise that we were going to be upgrading our schools in this state. The bill, 994, had a significant price tag on it when it went across three years ago. That price tag was deleted from the bill. In effect we have done nothing then to put more money into education to upgrade education in our state. The State of Texas, which our Governor compares us to in terms of the tough economic decisions they are making in Texas, they are in a similar economic bind, worse than ours perhaps. They are cutting millions of dollars from their budget. One area they are not touching is education. Many other states, Tennessee, Mississippi, California, other states have made this commitment to education in response to the crisis in education reports that came out three to four years ago. If we don't override this veto we will be moving in the opposite direction. I urge you to support this override.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator DeCamp, please. Senator Morehead. Senator Vickers. Then Senator Lundy.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, I rise to support this motion as well. And as pointed out by Senator Withem, there are some problems with doing this, as we all know. It was pointed out by Senator Abboud, it was mentioned by Senator Warner that we are going to have to look at the revenue side of the situation. But, quite frankly, I think that is the responsibility that we've got to take. If we do not, what we are saying instead is that we are going to allow the property taxes in this state to pick up an even greater share of the burden of providing the educational services that we expect to have in this state. Yes, we did pass a major reform bill a few years ago, and yet have never fully funded it, like a lot of other states have done, largely because we never bit that tough bullet in order to come up with the funds to do it. But I can tell you that there is a lot of property taxes out there that aren't paid from last year yet. And that problem is not going to get any less this year, I don't think. So if we think that we are saying to the schools, here, you just go ahead and do it, if we think we are saying to the local political subdivisions that you can handle it, we can't, then I think we are kidding ourselves because they can't handle it. And it is our responsibility. I think we ought to meet it. By the way, I also think that that is the case with the tech schools as well.