

democrat and republican, learned in Washington. You have to start forcing it on down the line. And my opening statement in the amendment specifically says that is what we are doing and the reasons. You now have a responsibility out there. You have our authority. You have our request. Start making adjustments locally. I am going to terminate my talk and let some others talk because I think it is important you get some other information but I ask you to listen carefully to some of the rocking, shocking facts you are going to hear. We are squabbling about a 2 or 3 percent reserve that we have been living and dying on here at the state level for several years now. Remember the battles. Can we live on a 2 percent, can we live on a 3 percent. Find out what the reserves are at the local level and have been for years, what they have available right now while we are sitting here dying. You have to deal with where the spending is. It is at the local level right now. You have to force the cuts on down the line. That is what that amendment attempts to do. And as I say, on the proportionate ratio of their budgets, it is a mere fraction of what we are doing to other people. Yeah, there is going to have to be some changes in policy out there. That is what we are trying to force. So I would ask you to consider the amendment, adopt it. I think it deals more directly with this issue of whether we are going to keep increasing taxes or we are going to really do spending cuts. Spending cuts mean more than right here in this room for a limited number of things like the ombudsman or the University or a few things like that. They mean spending cuts in the entire policy, philosophy, and attitude of all of government of this state. And the one area of government where we have abandoned it in terms of our responsibility is local government. We have allowed it to get out of control and it is out of control. That is our fault, not necessarily theirs. We will do the same thing they did in Washington until somebody brings it to a halt and that thing is you will keep spending, you will keep asking for more, you will keep talking poor mouth until you are forced to face up to facts. The amendment tries to bring it to a halt and get responsibility and accountability back where it should be. I urge you to adopt the amendment.

SENATOR LAMB: The next speaker will be Senator Warner. However, we would like to introduce 35 fourth graders from the Randolph School in Randolph, Nebraska in the north balcony with their teachers from Senator Hefner's district. Please stand and be recognized by the Legislature. Senator