

anybody standing up here wanting to amend the appropriations bill for this year. I don't think there will be too many people wanting to do it for the bill next year, to add another \$1.3 million to fund the drivers ed. program across the state. Because as a priority in education, when you look at the whole purposes of education, I don't think this body is going to decide that is that high of a priority. For goodness sakes, we've not even been able to find the monies and the priorities to establish some of the academic education standards we attempted to do with 994. We haven't found the monies for that. So it is ludicrous to think we are going to find the money for a drivers ed. program. I don't think it is a good idea to use that knowledge as a reason to take monies out of the General Fund either. So I would urge you to reject the Sieck amendment and to eventually advance LB 5. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins, then Senator Eret.

SENATOR HIGGINS: I'll pass.

SPEAKER NICHOL: All right. Senator Eret, please, then Senator Nelson.

SENATOR ERET: Mr. Speaker and members, I rise to support Senator Sieck's amendment. I think that we need to be able to respond to our constituents as to exactly how we do things here. This fee was put on for supporting drivers education. I think on a dollar-for-dollar basis it has probably been one of the most efficient dollars spent in our state government in that it allows several different agencies of state government to work together, the Department of Education, Department of Motor Vehicles, the State Patrol and all of them working to further the safety on the highways. As Senator Sieck said, now we made such a big deal about seat belts, this just seems like a contradiction now that we are taking away the drivers education. I think that it would be proper to remove this fee now and we would have the chance, in the next session starting in January, if we feel that a \$10 fee for a drivers license is an appropriate fee, that we can reinstitute that fee at that time. But I think it would be unconscionable for us to slide these funds around here without accounting to our public on this matter. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Nelson, please, then Senator