

some other more urban senator would say, okay, let's forget about the tiers. If we're going to recognize school districts differently, let's forget about the tiers, let's divide the cost of education in the State of Nebraska by the number of students, the total cost by the number of students and that will treat everybody the same and we'll...if there is sparsity we'll give you a little bit more, if you're Omaha we'll give you a little bit more and stuff like that. And I think that is the wrong way to go. I think that, if Senator Lamb, though I understand he has a particular problem in his district, I think he may be wise if he went back to his district and said, you know, really, our deal is not all that bad. You know given the fact that you go to the small schools, as many small schools as he may have in his district, he can argue that we've already taken that into account. We're in a tier group that recognizes our size as opposed to being compared to Lincoln and Omaha. I think when you start comparing yourself to Lincoln and Omaha, you drag the price you are allowed and the state aid you are allowed down considerably. I don't think that's what you want to do. And so I rise to vigorously oppose Senator Lamb's amendment. You know think long and hard about the policy decision you are making. As Senator Withem already stated better than I, that you are already really taken into account for this phenomena by including in the tiers and if you want to do away with the tiers and start from there, then be my guest, but I think from my point of view, and I happen to think from Senator Lamb's point of view, you're better off staying with the present system that we now have and give it a few years to work.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Elmer followed by Senator Lamb. Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Madam President, members, 1059 has been in place not a year yet. We're in here and we're talking about changing tiers for Lincoln, changing tiers for sparsity, using some of the money from 1059 for other programs and I think it's very premature. We have yet to know exactly what the income side is going to do, how that is going to affect each school district when 20 percent of each one of its residents income tax paid to the State of Nebraska is returned to that school district. When we have all of this data put together I think we can much more intelligently assess whether the tier system, as it is now, is currently correct, whether we need to do something like Senator Lamb suggests, but I would ask you at this time to leave 1059 as we passed it without any changes and