

mandatory that schools offer it and it's over a billion dollars you spend in secondary education, that is something we ought to do or, thirdly, the route that LB 336 takes that basically it is a user fee in some manners. But it's one of those things that I guess it's important but it's not important that we're going to fund it from the state level, we're going to encourage schools to do it. We're basically just going to say, if you're 16 years old, you have to come up with the money to fund this and if your parents, either your parents have got to give it to you or you have to find it for yourself. And Senator Kristensen is right that any 16-year-old that owns a car certainly has more than 100, \$150 invested in that car but, nevertheless, I guess the reason that...this is one of those issues that has really no organized lobby against the bill other than the 16-year-olds out there who don't know anything about it probably. And I guess the reason that I am concerned is that I think if it's something, instead of imposing that just on the 16-year-olds and inadvertently forcing some of them to wait a year to get their driver's license because they can't afford it, their parents can't afford it or whatever, I think it's something that if it's important enough and if we recognize it's important enough in the Legislature, we ought to go back to the way it was back in 1985 and fund it. And, at the same time, we can deflect a lot of criticism we've always been leveled against us because we...like in their words at least, to raise the driver's license fee to pay for it and eventually took it away. And like I said, I don't necessarily agree with that analogy but a lot of people say it, we certainly could correct it this way. And Senator Kristensen is right, if it came in as a pure funding mechanism, I'd be sitting here and saying, is it that important? Is it that important that you are going to raise taxes, cut other people's budgets or whatever? I don't know but I guess my idea is, if it is something that is that important, as I've said, we ought to be willing to put our money where our mouth is and fund it. So that's what this amendment does. It does not mandate that the schools do it, it only reverts back to the 1985 statutes where it says the state will reimburse \$80 for every student that completes the course. And so with that, I'd ask for the adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Kristensen, on the Moore amendment.