

these students, their financial capabilities are almost nil as far as going to school and they need a program of this type. And I feel we should consider helping those students. Many of the other schools are going into professionals and they're coming from professional families which have a better system of financing them. But you'll find that most of the students that go to tech colleges are from poor class of people and we need, we need to give them some support in a work study program. So I surely endorse Senator Nichol's amendment.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Newell. Senator Newell available?

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I think, I rise to oppose the, the Nichol amendment but I think the situation that we're faced with this morning is the traditional problems that we have in hard economic times. We have a program that is envisioned in LB 126 that is intended to pick up some of the slack with tuition assistance, with assistance to individuals who are attending our colleges and universities across the State. The desire in effect here is to help alleviate some of the pressures that the federal government have created in their cutbacks and readjustments in the federal loan and tuition programs. What we're trying to do here is a very good policy decision but like always in hard economic times, the real question is who's going to get the bulk of the money. Now what's happened here is simply this. We made a decision in the original bill or the original Cullan amendment and the decision was that we want to emphasize higher education. Now frankly, I thought it was reasonable, the Cullan amendment that was just withdrawn, and frankly I'd really like to see the Cullan amendment put back up there. But I'm opposed to the Nichol amendment at this point in time and one of the reasons is very simple. The reason is what we are trying to do with this program is to help and I think when you try to help, you recognize that you can't do everything for these students and when you try to help, you try to make sure that the kind of help is commensurate with costs. And that is why the Nichol amendment is not the preferable way to go because the cost for the tech schools are, in fact, much lower than they are for other forms of higher education. And that, I think, is a policy decision that is reasonable and rational. I think Senator Cullan's original amendment which I wished would come back to the floor is the preferable way we should move in this regard because it does recognize cost. It says we are going to help; we're not going to do everything for everyone but we're going to recognize that there are differences in the cost of the institution, the cost of the student, and so forth. So it is with that in mind that I urge this body to reject the Nichol amendment which really