

the liberal arts which this body has made some statements in that regard last year with the passage of LB 994. Hopefully, we can come up with the mechanisms to provide the funding to help bring about some of those things that we decided last year was important to do as far as academic training is concerned. But what we are also concerned about, I think, and we need to be concerned are the needs of those students that, sure, they will get the academic training, but they are also concerned about their needs that they are going to have the year after they get out of school as to paying the bills, as to going out in the job market and being a productive member of society. I should also add that this bill provides mechanisms to assist many, many of the smaller rural schools who are suffering probably as much economically as any school districts in the state. It gives them the ability, through the assistance from the state, to provide those vocational training programs that they, quite frankly, cannot afford to provide right now. Or if they are providing them, they are doing it at a very great sacrifice. I think it is important that this Legislature, that this body recognize the needs of those schools, recognize the needs of those students and advance LB 415. Hopefully, hopefully throughout the budgetary process that we are going to be looking at very diligently for the next month or so, we can make some priorities, set some priorities, recognizing the cost benefits to be derived, and recognizing the needs, recognizing that at a point in time when we probably can admittedly least afford it the most is the time when the needs are the greatest. I think LB 415 is the perfect vehicle to meet a lot of those needs. I would urge the serious consideration of this body of LB 415, Mr. President. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I would like to urge that this bill not be advanced at this particular point in time. In the first instance, of course, we are talking about a time when the funds are very limited, and you may have noticed that this bill has a \$3 million A bill on it. So in a situation where we've been holding up \$50,000 and \$100,000 bills on General File, under Senator Warner's new program, certainly it would behoove us to hold up this particular, bill which is for \$3 million, here on General File until such time as the financial picture becomes clear. But I would be less than candid with you if