

that it is the responsibility of the Board of Regents to make this determination and we ask them to make it. Again this is the amendment. I would grant the rest of my time to Senator Morehead who is the co-introducer of this amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Morehead.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: Mr. President and members of the body, this has been a heart-wringing, hand-wringing, head-aching type of budget bill if we have ever seen one, but I appeal to each and every one of you, as you do know, there are people in our society that fall through the cracks. We can't help that but we can help them. We have had at least one of these commissions in place for over 21 years and they have done an excellent job. Now, maybe not as good as you and I would like if we were operating that particular commission independently like we operate our homes and our offices, but on the whole, they have represented us as a Legislature and our state very well. If you think that the American-Mexican population in this state is not increasing, then you are living in an isolated pocket because it is increasing and these people do need help. On the national level, we have the ongoing battle of bilingualism. Are we going to become a nation of two languages, are we going to have our ballots printed in two languages, or are we going to insist that we are a one language nation? I say that we need to insist that we are a one language nation because this is one of the strengths of our nation, and if we don't help these people adjust to our society, adapt to it, fit in, then we are not doing our part in keeping this nation strong. So one of these commissions, advocacy commissions, the American-Mexican Commission, certainly aids us in that. Now what do you say about the people on the Indian Commission. You all carry somewhat of a guilt feeling, I am sure. We need to help these people. We have an ongoing commitment. We have several things in front of us this session that have told us about that commitment. We also recognize that the Status of Women's Commission has done a great deal for us. For years we have gone on not recognizing 50 percent of the talent in this country and, meanwhile, the women in this country are indeed almost 50 percent, if not more, of the work population. They are the backbone right now, a great portion of the backbone of the economy of this country. Some of them need help. That is right. Senator Chambers has said it over and over on the floor. For some of us who have the capability of being