

the vetoed amount. And in this case the vetoed amount is...I got to find the exact number, I believe it was \$108,938, okay. That's what I'm asking to do. That's half of the vetoed amounts, which is the same that we treated the rest of higher education. If we don't want to do this, I certainly have other amendments filed. And there will be other ones that would be filed. If we're not going to do this, then I don't see why we should treat the other ones differently and give them 50 percent. One of the amendments certainly would be to take away the 50 percent, period, and leave everyone the same, or if the body doesn't like to do the General Fund portion of this, certainly I will...the amendment I have filed already would say, fine, I have an amendment that will not cost anymore money, we'll simply take the 108,000 from the university's \$2 million, and we'll funnel it that way. My understanding is the university certainly is not opposed to this measure. State colleges and private schools are not opposed to the measure. They understand it's an equity issue, and I present it as that. If we're going to do the higher education at 50 percent of the vetoes, we need to be consistent, community colleges are a vital role and we need to be consistent with that. And, with that, I'd urge the adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members, I rise to oppose this. Many cases have been made for the case of fairness today. And even though we have done the best we can in most cases to be fair, there's no way we're going to make everyone receive the money that they consider on a fair basis. This is one of those areas that we decided not to fund. We discussed it briefly. It was not intensively pursued, that is true. Part of the reason the committee did not fund this, compared the university and state college systems, because of the impact. If you recall, this is an aid issue as far as community colleges are concerned. They do have access to the property tax; our state colleges and our university does not. We realize with the funding of the university and the...especially, and also the state colleges, that they probably would raise tuition rates, we spent a lot of time on that. In this case community colleges have access to tuition, property tax, and state aid, which is what this amounts to, state aid. So part of the reason is here we were trying to be frugal with the dollars. The cases that are made here for