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LB 386, 858

directly and forthrightly as I know how to do, but this right here is to eliminate a construction project.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Before we begin the discussion on the Chambers amendment, Senator Robak has, as her guests in the north balcony, 18 fifth grade students from Saint Anthony's School in Columbus with their teacher. Would all of you stand and be welcomed by your Legislature. Thank you for being here. Discussion on the Chambers amendment, Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President and members. LB 858 is a bill that I introduced along with my colleagues from Lincoln, all of whom have expressed concern to the university over time about the need for some attention to longstanding problems with gender and minorities teaching at the university. If we're to give our students at the University of Nebraska the best education possible they have to realize upon graduating they'll enter a world that's very diverse, whether they stay in Nebraska, whether they move on to any other part of the country or around the world. Ours is an international economy, a global economy, and that means you have to have an understanding and appreciate...appreciation of people of different races and ethnic backgrounds. Likewise, the role of women in our workplace has grown over time and we have to recognize the need to provide opportunities and to allow all individuals to achieve their potential, whether they be men or women. In any event, LB 858 was introduced and it basically put in statute the goals that had already been established back in 1991, as identified by Senator Chambers. The university said it'd like not only to be in the mid-range of peer institutions in dealing with gender or minority faculty, but they wanted to be a leader, so this legislation actually said let's accomplish that and let's do it or face the consequence of having the Legislature withhold part of your budget so that it can be set aside to use for specifically the purpose of making sure that we have adequate diversity in our faculty. As Senator Chambers talked about, at the hearing the university did agree to the goals once again. They'd been established; they've been reestablished, in a sense, by the Board of Regents, by the administration; they've talked about it a great deal. The nineties have had a lot of discussion about the need to do something about this problem at