

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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Program, and the Community Improvement Program, which goes across the entire state of Nebraska. What we would do with this is have the college award development grants to qualified community groups through an application process. The college is to develop and distribute application forms set out in simple, precise, and nontechnical language. To be eligible, a community improvement group shall demonstrate that the grant funds will be used for a specific project, that the project is for a public benefit with a specific benefit to the community or community served...excuse me, that the project is for a public benefit with a specific benefit to the neighborhood or community served, and that the project will be completed within a year of the receipt of the grant. The residents will be involved in the planning, development and execution of the project, and the project does not duplicate an existing public program. The project must have verifiable goals, and the community improvement group provides an in-kind match either of dollars or of value. The grant recipient cannot use the funds for administrative support, for project planning, or the administrative costs of the project, and a recipient may receive only one grant per year and one grant per project, and no grant can exceed \$10,000. We are asking for a total of only \$50,000 per year for this particular program. And the reason that I think this is an important companion to the LB 1348 is that oftentimes there are community improvement projects in the rural areas and community improvement projects in neighborhoods that don't need a whole lot of money, but certainly provide a great benefit to either the rural community or to the neighborhood. Oftentimes there's not money within a rural community's budget to complete a small project, because there is so much in the way of other pressing needs. And what I believe will be accomplished by this particular amendment is that we make the smaller amounts of money available to both communities and neighborhoods in order to do the kinds of things that improve the nature of the community and the nature of the neighborhood group. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you. Senator Kiel, you're finished? It's noisy. Thank you very much. You've heard the opening on the Kiel amendment. Discussion? Senator Wehrbein, followed by Schimek, Hartnett, Vrtiska, Preister, and Hilgert. Senator Wehrbein.