

to deplete the quality of public education, then that's wrong. I know and everybody in this body ought to know that we are depleting, reducing programs scope quality higher education as it is at the community colleges, at the state colleges and at the University in this budget. And all you're talking about is another depletion and the ability for those institutions, this one specifically only applied to the UNL or the University of Nebraska. But all we're talking about is a further reduction and that is the only issue involved. I hope you would not support the amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise reluctantly in opposition to this amendment because I know that it is very well intended. I know Senator Lynch has been working very hard on this, but I thought it would be helpful to have a voice from Omaha on this particular issue inasmuch as we've heard from Senator Warner and Senator Wesely only. Senator Warner has talked about the extent to which it will impact programs statewide. Let me tell you what it will do to UNO or what is has the potential of doing to UNO. Right now at the University of Nebraska in Omaha we have about 150 students who are receiving scholarship aid who are nonneedy, recipients of merit scholarships, Regent's scholarships and the like. Many of those students have these scholarships on a year-to-year basis. In order to requalify their grade point average has to be maintained at a certain level. In some instances they are put back into the pool as I understand it and have to compete once again to receive a scholarship the next year. Now I have no objection whatsoever to what Senator Lynch and the other proponents to this amendment are trying to do. We clearly need more scholarship funds directed towards the private sector, but to do it in this fashion has the potential of taking scholarships away from individuals, in particular 150 students at UNO who are currently benefitting from those scholarships. I think that we need to do what Senator Lynch is trying to do, but to do it in this fashion, as Senator Warner and Senator Wesely have indicated, is going to create undue hardship and for that reason I'm going to oppose this amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Question.