

form on Thursday. That is what I am asking you to do, recognizing once again that budgets have traditionally in this body been a consensus manner. They have to be by our rules. They have to have a super majority to pass with the emergency clause and go into effect at the beginning of our next fiscal year. So I am asking you to do that. To explain the amendment, and this is an amendment that I am sure that if we had got to a vote yesterday, we would have had the support on. I am asking you, if you would have supported this amendment yesterday, to also support it today. Let me explain the amendment. It does five simple things. First of all, it replaces the Displaced Homemakers Program at 50 percent of the funding that it had in the original Appropriations Committee bill. Not enough to do the super job that they have been doing in the past but enough so we, as a Legislature, can say we appreciate the work that has been done, we do feel this is a worthwhile program, and we do want it to continue. Secondly, the three advocacy agencies, the Status of Women, the Mexican-American Commission, and the Nebraska Indian Commission, again it reinstates them at the 50 percent general fund level. If you will notice on an amendment explanation sheet that we passed out, it also does another thing. Now don't be confused by this. It establishes a cash fund. That is not tax money that is going into that agency. What that does is gives them the authorization to, through grants, through other fund raising measures, to raise the money to carry out some programs. That is not taxpayers money, that cash fund, but what we are saying to them is you are good programs, we want you to continue, but you are going to have to begin to fund your own way. And then finally it inserts some language regarding the cuts that we gave the other day regarding intercollegiate athletics. With intercollegiate athletics, if you remember, we gave a lot of speeches on the floor about how we were cutting those out of the University's budget. Most of you that understand the constitutional relationship between the Legislature and the Board of Regents realize we really can't do that. We can't tell the Board of Regents how to spend their money. They are an independent agency of government with their own budgetary authority. We are adding intent language to LB 722 to expressly state that, that although we may have given some flowery speeches on the floor of the Legislature, some people indicated they wanted intercollegiate athletics to be cut in the Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents, we recognize in this bill that it is...in this amendment