

way to visit us. We'd like to welcome nine students from Sidney High School with their two sponsors. If you'd stand, we'd like to recognize you, welcome you and thank you for coming down. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President and members, I would like to ask for your attention if you don't mind. Could I...?

PRESIDENT: Let's get a little order in the Chamber, Senator Wesely. (Gavel.)

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President and members, I think there is a solution to this problem and I would like to propose one to you. I don't think we should kill the bill. I agree with Senator Johnson though that I was concerned about that Western Technical Committee, Community College getting the additional levy when they're not even close to their own levy. I was agreeing with Senator Abboud when he said this is business as usual because this would up their levy limit and allow them to continue programs. If you look at one of the handouts that we've received, the two colleges that now have the additional levy are at 64 and 69 percent vocational oriented programs whereas other programs are 90 percent or more. They have a lot of academic programs in that area. We have got to talk about the scope of community colleges and what their role is in this state and this bill doesn't even come close to addressing that. But I disagree with some people who say that they shouldn't have some additional resources because I have seen in the economic development side of things that these colleges are critical to our future potential to develop the economy. These are the places that new businesses go to to train the new employees, to take those farmers out there losing their job on the farm and give them the skills to take jobs in the new businesses that are going to be attracted to our state. We can't allow these colleges to slip in terms of their quality, but this additional mill levy doesn't say anything about directing those resources into the key area of job training. In fact, it would allow the continuation of the academic programs and maybe some of the secondary vocational programs that they have and doesn't prioritize their resources. So what I am suggesting is not to kill the bill. I am suggesting that some individuals sit down, perhaps either hold the bill on this stage or on the next, and sit down and figure out the role of the community