

if you really believe economic development, if you really believe the Saturn plant went to Tennessee simply because they liked the weather down there or they liked the Governor, I will eat your hat. They went down there, one of the main factors getting the Saturn plant into Tennessee was because of their educational system. They had the ability in Tennessee, they had worked on it, they had purposely built it up, they had purposely created it, so that they could train people to go into the job market. That is the importance, economic development importance of the tech school areas. Please do not put a mechanism in place that causes them to spend thousands of dollars for something that would not benefit one student. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Nelson, please.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. President, members of the body, I, too, rise to oppose the amendment and I also would like to address a few of the points that have been brought up. One thing, to respond to Senator Hartnett's question, why didn't Metro want this, may I advise you that Metro's tax levy has gone up over \$3 million. They don't want it and they don't need it. Their membership has grown rapidly because I think they get maybe some of the people that would have attended higher school in Omaha. Also in comparison of levies, I have my own Central Community College which I am more familiar, but their levy in a six-year period went from .0423 to 7. That I think you will find in any budget if you take utilities, I have been taking a check of those. They have gone up 300 percent in the last ten years and, of course, that affects those budgets. I will have to tell you in the chart that Vard Johnson passed out this morning which we were comparing, you did see an increase in tuition from 21 to 24 dollars. You found a 14, or let's see, yes, a 14.4 percent increase in tuition. Also you found 5.1 percent increase in all budgets for the tech colleges. May I remind you again how the enrollment in these colleges has gone up. People need to be retrained and farmers need to be retrained. If you are out in McCook, Nebraska or if you are in North Platte, Nebraska, Imperial, Nebraska, wherever you are at, a lot of times you have to hold onto your job and support your family. You can't come into Omaha and Lincoln for that training. As another example, in my own, or the community colleges, in our nurses study this year, people are demanding increased practice for LPNs, increased training, and the marketplace is demanding that.