

Postsecondary Coordinating Commission. What does that distribution look like? In what ratio would distributions be made? Based on the Pell grant distribution, University of Nebraska students would receive about 42 percent; independent college students about 28 percent; state college students about 20 percent and vocational students about 10 percent. Now, what are the qualifications for receiving this aid? The scholarship award program is based on financial need, the neediest first. So it would not go to the undeserving. Will this amendment solve the problem? Frankly, no. More federal cuts are likely and Nebraska is already behind all of its neighbors in providing state student financial aid. But this amendment would be a big help and appreciated by those who need the help the most. Now, how many students would benefit? Average aid is expected to be in the 500 to \$700 range, meaning that about 2,000 students could benefit. It is estimated that approximately 2,500 fewer Nebraskans will receive Pell grants for the upcoming fiscal year. This is in addition to the cuts in the other programs. Now, why should the state replace federal dollars? Is the Legislature doing this for other programs? Many, many federal cuts are already proposed. Student aid cuts have already happened. Other programs have resources on which to fall back since many federal programs are supplemented by state and local funds. Nebraska now has no student aid program so there is no other place for needy students to turn. These are the points we would like you to consider in adopting this amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Chronister. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, because I saw this amendment coming, I have just filed with the Speaker and with the Accountability and Disclosure my own conflict of interest form. I, three days a week, drive down to Doan College and teach a class on Constitutional Law. Every other Sunday I teach a class on Introduction to Law. I am a part of the adjunct faculty of those groups as well as the adjunct faculty of the University of Nebraska at Omaha for whom I teach Negotiations on Saturday morning. And because I have that relationship with those private colleges, I have decided to declare a potential conflict of interest. Because I represent the 22,000 students at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln who have very real interests in this bill as well, I have decided to vote on it and my intention is to vote for this amendment and then to move the bill over to Select File and at that time I have to conclude whether or not we will have the money in the