

this state. I have had calls not just from my district on this, but I've had calls from across the State of Nebraska because these people know that I've had an interest in this particular center and the dissemination of information which it provides. It not only provides the information specifically, but it also puts people in contact with other individuals who can help them. It is intimidating to know where to turn in state government or where to turn in the university's system, where to find the help and go from there and I think that this business center is one that does need to be maintained. Why establish a center when it is proving its worth and it's good and then turn right around, abolish it and then the next day follow and say, but we need to do something for economic development in this state, by golly, we need to support the businesses that are on main street. This is it, ladies and gentlemen, this is it, and I say don't scrap this right now. Go ahead and give this a chance to operate. Give it a chance to continue to prove its worth. I would ask for your adoption of this amendment which does restore to the business Technical Assistance Center \$42,000 for its continued operation. Thank you.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you, Senator Morehead. Senator Wesely, you're next. Before you start, Senator Wesely, if I may, we have four visitors from the Omaha Tribal Council from Macy, Nebraska, Arnie Harlan is their secretary. They are in the north balcony. If you would rise, we would be happy to recognize you. Thank you for coming. Thank you, Senator Wesely, you may proceed now.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President, members, I would support the Morehead amendment dealing with the Technical Assistance Center. Just to bring you back up to date, last fall we had an issue involving this. Senator Hannibal was involved with the Appropriations Committee and Senator Morehead and I tried to get money back in to fund that program last fall. The problem was that when the budget was approved a year ago money was denied for the Technical Assistance Center, but the Department of Economic Development went ahead anyway and found money and put it in with the university in cooperation together to develop the Technical Assistance Center. That anchored the Appropriations Committee and so in the fall when they looked for budget cuts, that was one of the first places they looked. Unfortunately, or fortunately, depending how you look at it, it was a very successful program. Though not authorized, they did get established and they were able to support hundreds of people who contacted them and provided them with assistance through the