

are requesting here is not one way or another going to impact any of the other decisions we have to make. The budget situation is such that whether or not we vote for a tax increase, either an income tax increase or a sales tax increase, is clearly not going to turn on this particular vote. At the same time, we are serving as good a purpose and as good a function as we could possibly be serving with this expenditure of state funds. So keeping that in mind, I would urge you to support this amendment to add this \$250,000 for this purpose. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Senator Hoagland. Next, Senator Sieck, please.

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President and members of the body, I, too, am going to support this amendment but for another reason. I actually feel it is going to save the State of Nebraska money in the long term. Many of our students who cannot afford to go to the independent colleges that care to go will end up in our state system. As we all know, Kearney is overcrowded today almost and they need a lot more funds to get more teachers and so on and part of that is because there is a lot of students that cannot afford to go to the independent colleges. And if we would help them a little bit, they could go to those schools and could in the long term save the state state money. And we also must remember the economic benefit that these schools give to the state. There is a lot of money that comes into these different cities and towns across the state that have these colleges and it is part of the industry within that community. I can recall many years ago Concordia College and Hughes' poles was the only industry in the City of Seward yet Seward did well. But today the Concordia College is in real difficulty because it is losing students and they have to cut back and they are willing to do this but I would like to save the school, at least, and maybe this way we can. Thank you.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Senator Sieck. Senator Scofield, please.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Senator Hannibal, and members of the Legislature, as has already been pointed out, we have discussed this issue at length. We killed a bill that was similar to this the other day. This isn't any better idea today than it was the other day. Let me just reiterate one more time that these kinds of formulas always consider costs of the various institutions. I think it is very hard to justify the