

school anymore or I'd be suing the State of Nebraska so damn quick your head would swim. Because if one of my children was attending that school, they wouldn't be able to go off and become the veterinarian that one of them is today without doing some extra work at school, at college level. They wouldn't be able to go off and become the physical therapist that another one is today without doing some additional work at the college level, and I think that that is unconscionable that we tell certain young individuals because of an accident of birth, that we tell certain taxpayers because of where you live geographically you're going to have to spend more money at the higher education level and more time in order to catch up with other people. That is what happens under our approval and accreditation difference and we send our dollars out there to support that. We send our dollars out there to encourage it, quite frankly, because it keeps it going. I think that is ridiculous. I think we ought to do like most other states. Most other states have bitten that bullet and said, look, if you don't meet certain levels we're not going to send you the dollars, period. And do you know what? They figure out ways to meet it.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Excuse me, Senator Vickers. (Gavel.) I respectfully ask you once more to please quiet your conversation and listen to the speaker. He is trying very hard to carry a point and we're not giving him a chance at all. Senator Vickers, you may proceed.

SENATOR VICKERS: Thank you, Senator Carsten. Over the years I have attempted to a number of things and it has not been unusual for me to lose, but generally I think after the dust cleared a lot of folks recognized that many of the times that I lost, I lost for other outside reasons, but the purposes were still the correct ones. My suspicion is that this will be one of those times. But there will come a time, ladies and gentlemen, when I will be able to tell you from outside or from afar and remind you, you had a chance and you blew it. I will be able to remind you, ladies and gentlemen, that if you really want quality then you've got to put your bucks where your mouth is, quite frankly, or conversely not put them. You can't talk about quality and still send dollars to the lowest quality and that is what we have always done and I'm suggesting that we change it. I'm suggesting that before I leave this body we put in place some mechanisms to at least pay for the highest quality and not pay for the lowest. Now if you want to vote to get a few extra bucks to either stick in your sock and make Senator Warner