

Maybe we can be and we should be evaluating it along the way, but don't let it drop because you can put less money, I believe you can put less money into helping at risk students that will have a bigger payoff than practically any other student that you can invest in because they're kind of on the borderline, they're kind of on the edge and we can make a terrific difference in their lives. I agree, Senator Nelson, it's not going to mean to all these students the overriding factor...it's not going to be the overriding factor in their life. We're not going to turn things around for them immediately, but how many at risk students are there in Nebraska? How many? Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: I would say probably two to 4,000.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I would say easily, easily.

SENATOR NELSON: So how can you pick up...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: The point that you made though that we have other programs to take care of these students, we don't have nearly enough programs for these students. We could expand and broaden this program. I'm not suggesting that nor do I want it, but the more opportunities that we can give students like that, the better we are. How can we select them? How do we select Girls State and Boys State? I mean, there are lots of students that are worthy of attending those kinds of programs, music camps, art camps, what have you. There always has to be a selection process. Just because it's a difficult process and there are many other students who would also be worthy of the program is no reason not to have the program. Ladies and gentlemen, we're talking about 15,000 to 30,000 dollars, somewhere in between maybe.

SENATOR MORRISSEY PRESIDING

SENATOR MORRISSEY: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I think it's an excellent investment for the state. I think that we can have an impact and I believe that use of the college campuses is an idea that we don't want to do away with. I think it's an excellent idea and I would just encourage the adoption of the Hefner amendment, and something similar, if not the Chambers amendment.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Before we go on