

Senator Coordsen, followed by Senator Moore and Bernard-Stevens.
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SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Madam President. Members of the body, I rise to support this amendment. It was debated at some length yesterday, although there were not many people here at that time. I suppose though it would be appropriate for me to offer the body a little bit of an apology for yesterday for bringing to the body an issue that not only had an understandable sum of money, 39,500 dollars, but it went into infinite detail how each dollar of that was to be spent. And I think that was probably a mistake on my part, that it probably should have been several hundreds of thousands of dollars into a fund with which there was no way of ever knowing what the money was going to be spent on. But all of that aside, I do think that this is an appropriation that is of great value to the community techs in Scottsbluff and North Platte; that it will be of significant value to the Rural Health Education Network. It will bring everything on speed at the same time and will ensure that our investment in that particular NEB*SAT Program and the people hours and dollars that have went into developing programs will be utilized to the fullest extent possible and will provide, again, enhanced opportunities to the people in the more remote sections of Nebraska. I encourage your adoption of the amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Madam President and members, in the page that I tore up that Senator Kristensen taped back together, but on page 34 of the budget book, you will notice that already in our budget is 267,000 dollars this year and I believe 540,000 dollars next year for the RHEN Program. Included in that amount is a variety of things that have been requested and we have funded for to get this program off the ground. Now the initial request by the Governor's Office, as well as the Med Center, far exceeded that, quite honestly, and we're not funding the whole loaf with what we've done to date. Now, I applaud Senator Chizek and Senator Hall for taking into consideration at least some of our mutual concerns there and at least not taking any money out of the contingency fund, but, nevertheless, still have a problem on why you should fund this one because if, as always is the case, I think Senator Wickersham told me the other day, why is it that I link everything, well, linkage, I link things because a lot of things are...for one, it all comes out of the