

them the way they can tax themselves, the way they must furnish their own finances in addition to what we give them, is insufficient. So this is the reason for my amendment and I hope you will support it. With the increases that the tech colleges have, it seems that it would be prudent, the right thing to do, to increase this to \$15.4 million. As stated before, the Governor will go along with this and I sincerely hope you will support this amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President, colleagues, I rise in opposition to Senator Nichol's amendment. I think we should support the original and initial budget request that the Appropriations Committee has worked out. I think that they have had all the facts and the time to totally consider the needs and to balance these needs against the other needs across the State of Nebraska and I think we ought to support them 100% in this particular area. I noted with interest the handout that Senator Nichol passed around and I notice again now that it is popular to start talking about FTEs rather than actual enrollment and I note that in this handout that when we talk about actual enrollment, surprisingly enough, we only use five year comparisons just as nothing occurred or figures weren't available on actual enrollment this year compared to last year because those figures are available. And I think that the cry that Senator Nichol brought up about this great increase in enrollment just absolutely isn't there when we talk about head count. Now FTEs, the old shell game and we know it. We have all kinds of problems with it. Another thing that I think is very interesting, and Senator Nichol laments the fact of the fixed mill levy, but what Senator Nichol didn't tell you is that the valuations have increased significantly generating hundreds of thousands of additional dollars across this state that the technical community colleges can spend and I think this is an important point. They haven't been locked in. When we checked the reevaluations across the state and the increased amount of dollars generated across this state from mill levies in technical community colleges, it is shocking, and when you look at their total budget expenditure with the combination of the mill levy and the continually increasing general fund appropriation, they have been well funded in their growth, extremely well funded, and to come out with enlarged print, 38% increase in FTE, and not mention that increase in head count, it is very deceiving. So I urge that we stay with the Appropriation Committee. I commend them for the job they have done and it isn't an easy job. Special interest after special interest after special interest, day after day after day, but we are going to have to start holding line and this is the place to do it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Koch. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of this Legislature, I rise in support of the Nichol amendment. I recognize that Senator Dworak makes a good speech about holding the line but the facts are that there are many areas here in this budget where we can hold the line and save the amount of money that Senator Nichol is talking about. I think the technical community colleges fill a very important