

address that?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, Senator Morrissey, this bill as it is drafted deals with those programs created by federal or state law, not the university scholarship, you know, one created by the university. Should I go ahead and use the time that I need.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Yes, that is my only question.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Senator Beutler and Senator Nelson, this bill would not encroach on any authority or power that the Board of Regents would have. What this bill does is to say that laws that the state has enacted relative to aid programs for students will not be defeated by a rule or regulation adopted by the university. If we take it away from the athletes and would place it in the category of gender discrimination, then I think it is more readily apparent what the bill is saying. Let's say that the Legislature creates a scholarship program based on need, and universities would start saying that females cannot participate in any programs if they accept this aid. And they would say it is based on the fact that the university belongs to some association which does not allow such aid to go to females, that university rule could not stand, and if the Legislature in order to make it crystal-clear that these programs are not to discriminate would enact what, in effect, is antidiscrimination law, such a law is constitutional. If those aid programs were administered in accord with the law, they would not discriminate against those students that happen to be athletes. But the only way the university is going to be brought into compliance with the laws is to have an act such as this one. Now the other questions that were asked, I am not sure if I remember all of them. But the Exon bill, that case merely said that when it comes to operating the university, and this is an oversimplification and a very broad statement, that is in the hands of the Regents, although we can enact laws that impact on what is done at the university, nevertheless. This does not relate to wages, hours, condition of employment, or anything else. What it, in effect, says is that any program which is an integral part of that university is going to be open to all students on the same basis, that the university will adopt no rule or regulation or enforce any rule or regulation which says that certain students, in order to participate in athletics, must give up that aid which is available to every other student, whether they participate in band or any other extracurricular activity. This bill is imminently just. It is