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with your counties? Is it too small of an area? Do we need that many colleges, or that many community colleges? Also, I think, you know, community college...I think we had one originally, a long time ago, Milford, as a trade school. But I think it's expanded. And I heard...someone told me that what's happening at our colleges like Wayne and Peru and Kearney and so forth, enrollment in the basic classes are going down, because it is cheaper. And maybe it's right for students to go to community college for the first year. But it has had some impact. So I think that...I think this is the wrong move. We've helped, generally helped community colleges across the state with part of the bill that would just advance. LB 540 was the bill that I think Senator Raikes introduced for us by LB 302. And I just think that this is the wrong thing to do at this time. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Raikes on the Tyson amendment.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. Senator Tyson, I want to make sure I understand here. You've recognized an important government service that needs funding. There's a legitimate...this is a quality public service. And we ought to raise taxes to support that service. You know, you could just nod. That would...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Tyson.

SENATOR RAIKES: He's not nodding. Well, at any rate, I think that's what I heard you say. And I really hate to discourage that attitude on your part. It's been a long time coming. But unfortunately, I am going to have to oppose your amendment at this point. I laud you for recognizing the quality service provided by Northeast Community College. I think it is a fine institution. And I also laud you for recognizing that quality public services deserve strong taxpayer support, even if it means sometimes the distasteful job of raising taxes. In this particular case, as has been pointed out, we have made an effort to help, or to provide assistance to Northeast Community College, as well as all of the other community college areas, through the bill that was introduced as LB 302 and then amended