

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office

Education Committee February 24, 2026

Rough Draft

**MURMAN:** Welcome to the Education Committee. I'm Senator Dave Murman from Glenvil. I represent the 38th Legislative District. I serve as Chair of the committee. The public hearing is your opportunity to be part of the legislative process and to express your position on the proposed legislation before us. The committee will take up agenda items in the order posted. If you wish to testify on the mic today, please fill out a green testifier sheet. The forms can be found at the entrances to the hearing room. Be sure to print clearly and provide all requested information. If you will testify on more than one agenda item, you will need a new green testifier sheet each time you come forward to speak on the mic. When it's your turn to come forward, please give the testifier sheet and any handouts you might have to the page as you are seated. If you have handouts, we request that you provide 12 copies for distribution. If you do not have 12 copies, please alert the page when you come forward. At the microphone, please begin by stating your name and spelling both your first and last names to ensure we get an accurate record. Observers, if you do not wish to testify but would like to indicate your position on an agenda item, there are yellow sign-in sheets in notebooks at the entrances. The sign-in sheets will be included in the official hearing record. We will begin with the introducer giving an opening statement at the mic, followed by proponents, opponents, and those wanting to speak in the neutral capacity. The introducer will then have an opportunity to give a closing statement if they wish. We will be using a 3-minute light system for all testifiers. When you begin your testimony, the light on the table will be green. When the yellow light comes on, you'll have 1-minute to wrap up your thoughts, and the red light indicates that you have reached the end of your time limit. Questions from the committee may follow off the clock. A few final items to facilitate today's hearing. Please mute your cell phones or any other electronic devices. Verbal outbursts or applause are not permitted. Such behavior may be cause for you to be asked to leave the hearing room. Know that committee members may need to come and go during the afternoon for other hearings. I will now ask committee members with us today to introduce themselves starting at my immediate left.

**HUGHES:** That would be me. Thank you, Chairman Murman. Thanks for coming in this afternoon. I'm Jana Hughes, District 24. It's Seward, York, Polk, and a little bit of Butler County.

**G. MEYER:** Glen Meyer, District 17: Dakota, Thurston, Wayne, and the southern part of Dixon County.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

**HUNT:** I'm, I'm Megan Hunt and I represent, I represent District 8 in midtown Omaha.

**JUAREZ:** Hi, I'm Senator Margo Juarez, District 5, Omaha.

**MURMAN:** Thank you. Staff with us today are, to my immediate right, committee's research analyst, Jack Spray. And to my far right is committee clerk, Connie Thomas. The pages who serve our committee today can introduce themselves.

**ELIAS REIMAN:** Elias Reiman from Lincoln, Nebraska. Junior at UNL, studying psychology and the prelaw track.

**GRACE HARPER:** I'm Grace Harper. I'm from Loveland, Colorado, and I'm a junior studying political science at UNL.

**MURMAN:** Thank you very much for helping us out today. With that, we'll begin today's hearing with the gubernatorial appointment. And that is Jon Abegglen. And his appointment is for the Bureau of Land and-- Educational Lands and Funds.

**JON ABEGGLEN:** Yeah. Thanks for having me today. My name is Jon, J-o-n, last name is Abegglen, A-b-e-g-g-l-e-n. I live in Kearney, Nebraska, 3114 8th Avenue, Kearney, Nebraska 68845. And I'm here to answer any questions you have for the Governor's reappointment to the Bureau of Educational Lands and Funds.

**MURMAN:** Thank you. Could you-- I, I know you're a reappointment. Could you tell us a little bit about what the Bureau of Educational Lands and Funds does?

**JON ABEGGLEN:** What, what they do?

**MURMAN:** Yes.

**JON ABEGGLEN:** Yeah, well, they oversee the educational lands under a trust in the state of Nebraska. They manage them. They oversee them. They manage them. We receive money from, from leasing the land out and also from wind energy, also from mineral rights, and all sorts of-- all the, all the available opportunity to generate revenue off of the educational-- off the land that the educational-- the BELF, Bureau of Educational Lands and Funds owns. We have a five-member board. I am the at-large member. The-- there are-- the land is managed by, by the staff at the Bureau of Educational Lands and Funds and the board oversees the policies related, related to that. We have about

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Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

1,250,000 acres that we manage and oversee. It consists of about 2,800 and some change leases, different leases with, with producers, with farmers and, and producers. And all of the revenue, the net revenue that we generate is transferred to public education in the state on a pro rata basis. There's about 320 some thousand students in the state. And last year we transferred about \$83.3 million to public education in the state that was generated from, from the farming and ag-related ranching revenue and then also from revenue from our permanent fund that is managed by the State Investment Council.

**MURMAN:** Well, thank you. That's--

**JON ABEGGLEN:** Is that enough?

**MURMAN:** Yeah, that's good. That's quite a bit.

**JON ABEGGLEN:** I can keep going.

**MURMAN:** Let's see if anybody else has any questions.

**JUAREZ:** I do.

**MURMAN:** Senator Juarez.

**JUAREZ:** Thank you very much for coming and for serving. I was just curious, does the board actually have much interaction with the investment officer or do you guys just basically get reports from that department? Could you tell me a little bit how that works?

**JON ABEGGLEN:** We get reports. We don't have any input to what the-- our cash funds are invested in. That's all taken care of by the Nebraska Investment Council and so we, we try to meet with them once a year and they sort of give us a, a cursory review of, of, of our funds. We have quite a bit, about, about \$1 billion under their management and oversight, so. But other than that, no, we do not have a lot of input into those-- how those funds are invested. I think about 50% of them are invested in cash funds, I believe, and the other-- there's a little bit in some, some real estate investments and the balance of it is in the stock market and equities.

**JUAREZ:** OK. Thank you.

**MURMAN:** Any other questions? Senator Meyer.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

**G. MEYER:** Thank you, Chair Murman. Welcome. Good to see you here this afternoon.

**JON ABEGGLEN:** Thank you.

**G. MEYER:** Do you get the opportunity-- I know we've got-- I believe I know that we have folks that go out and inspect these properties and have hands-on-- do you get the opportunity to go out and inspect any of the properties that's part of the, part of the school funds?

**JON ABEGGLEN:** Do I do it personally?

**G. MEYER:** Do you have any idea-- you go out, do you see any of the ranchland, any of the farmland, do you take a road trip, as it were, have a sense of what this property represents?

**JON ABEGGLEN:** I live in Kearney. I, I have knowledge of, of the school lands in Buffalo and Kearney County and, and a little bit in Phelps County. But as far as taking a road trip with one of our field reps, I have not done that at this point in time. They, they typically, you know-- I mean, it's a big job for our field reps to, to go out and see all of their-- all of the landowners that we, that we lease to. And, and inspect the land, it takes a tremendous amount of time. Like I said, there's 2,800 and some odd leases to producers in the state, and we have nine field representatives that take care of that. And we have about six people in the office, and then Kelly Sudbeck, our CEO. So that-- that's-- that makes up our staff. So they're pretty busy. They interact with the board. The field representatives do come to board meetings. They interact with the board, and so it, it, it works pretty well that way. But to answer your question, Senator Meyer, no, I have not been on a road trip, but that's a good idea.

**G. MEYER:** I think it's a great idea. Take, take me with you. Just, just briefly.

**JON ABEGGLEN:** Sure.

**G. MEYER:** And I apologize, I haven't looked through your total background. What is your original background?

**JON ABEGGLEN:** I was in banking, commercial banking. I spent about 26 years working for First Commerce Bank shares, which was the original NBC in Lincoln and they had banks in outstate Nebraska and I was in Kearney, Nebraska at one of their banks. And then after, I went-- after Wells Fargo bought First Commerce, I was there about 14 months

and decided to go across the street because I was a community-- I'm a community banker and the way that Wells Fargo wanted to bank in our, in our community and, and in our area was difficult for me to adapt to, I'll say. And so I went across the street to Platte Valley Bank in Kearney, which was a Lauritzen bank, part of FNBO today. And then I spent 16 years there, and, and then in between I spent about 7 years working for the University of Nebraska Foundation running their, their office on the-- on UNK's campus and in charge of fundraising on that campus, so.

**G. MEYER:** Thank you. I appreciate that.

**JON ABEGGLEN:** You bet.

**MURMAN:** Any other questions? If not, thank you for putting your name out and we'll advance it to the floor or vote whether or not to advance it to the floor. And online, I've got to mention that there was zero proponents, zero opponents, and one neutral testifier. And thank you very much for your service and for signing up to do it going forward.

**JON ABEGGLEN:** Yeah, it's a, it's a tremendous-- I like the organization, I like what they do, and, and hopefully it will continue for many years because it serves a great purpose.

**MURMAN:** Thank you.

**JON ABEGGLEN:** Thank you.

**MURMAN:** And that'll end the hearing on the gubernatorial appointment of Jon Abegglen, and we will move on to LB1262. Welcome, Senator Andersen. Good afternoon.

**ANDERSEN:** Good afternoon, Chairman Murman and members of the Education Committee. I'm Senator Bob Andersen, B-o-b A-n-d-e-r-s-e-n, and I represent District 49, which includes northwest Sarpy County and Omaha. I'm introducing LB1262, the Foreign Adversaries Out of Postsecondary Education Act, at the request of the Governor to protect Nebraska's postsecondary institutions and our students from the damaging influence of foreign adversaries. In order to clarify some of the responsibilities and harmonize definitions with federal code, I've introduced AM2255, which is being handed out now. This language is a white copy amendment to replace the bill. Institutions of postsecondary education play a vital role in research, national competitiveness, development of future leaders, and nurturing core

American liberties. They should be catalysts of strengthening ties with American allies who share our values rather than adversaries who exploit them. In recent years, we have seen how universities and colleges have been weaponized. Student protests on behalf of our enemies and anti-Semitism runs rampant. Additionally, our research and data are often too close to adversarial hands. In 2024, the Free Press released a blistering report on a troubling relationship with Texas A&M and the state of Qatar. Texas A&M is one of our nation's premier schools for nuclear engineering and with whom the National Nuclear Security Administration maintains contracts. National security is at risk. Within our borders, Bellevue University, which serves many members of the Offutt Air Force Base and STRATCOM community, hosts a joint degree program in supply chain management and logistics with a PRC-based Guangzhou College of Commerce. LB1262 prohibits postsecondary education institutions in the state of Nebraska from receiving or soliciting directly or indirectly funding from a foreign adversary. These foreign adversaries include the People's Republic of China, Russia, Islamic Republic of Iran, North Korea, the state of Qatar, and any additional nations or entities designated by the Governor. The bill also directs the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education and the State Auditor to maintain oversight. It directs the Attorney General to pursue civil action if an institution is found in violation. Nebraska would not be the first state to pursue this protection of our universities and colleges. Florida passed similar legislation in 2023, Indiana in 2024, and Texas in 2025. All three bills pass in a bipartisan nature. Our southern neighbor, Kansas, also has pending legislation this session. Currently, Nebraska postsecondary education institutions receive approximately \$55 million in foreign funds, mostly from friendly nations. These funds will not be jeopardized. However, over \$7 million of the 55 came from China. While it seems like a smaller number, we need to stop the encroachment of adversaries into our universities and colleges. In 2025, Iowa institutions received \$19 million from China. In Missouri, that number was \$45 million. We must act to stop this trend. The safety and intellectual freedom of our campuses is at stake. The Foreign Adversaries Out of Postsecondary Education Act is an important step in securing our schools against foreign influence. I appreciate the Governor for his efforts on this behalf. And we have a number of testifiers here today to speak in greater detail. I thank you all for your time and your attention, and I'm happy to answer any questions you might have.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

**MURMAN:** Thank you. The list includes foreign adversaries and also includes Qatar. Is there anybody else who's going to testify about why Qatar is being included specifically, do you know?

**ANDERSEN:** Yes, sir. And I'll be happy to answer any questions at the end.

**MURMAN:** Oh, OK, I'll hold that question until later.

**ANDERSEN:** But there are specialists with technical detail.

**MURMAN:** OK. Thank you. Any other questions of the open? Senator Hunt.

**HUNT:** Thank you. Thank you, Senator Andersen. What if Qatar gives us a plane, then is it OK?

**ANDERSEN:** That's really outside the scope of the bill and outside of my expertise.

**HUNT:** OK. Thank you.

**MURMAN:** Senator Meyer

**G. MEYER:** Thank you, Chair Murman. As I look through the fact sheet, you were focusing on China quite a little and justifiably so. I see that they cooperate with us, the University of Nebraska, on drone research, stealth research. How do we vet them with regard to national security? With regard-- they're coming over here participating in the type of studies that in all probability represent national security interests and, yet, they're representatives of foreign government that in all probability would like to see us perhaps not eliminated but subjugated. So how do we, how do we vet these people coming into our universities and having access to our research?

**ANDERSEN:** That's a great question. I don't know what the, what the current process is. I suppose we have to probably work through the State Department to figure out what they do with the vetting process. Are you talking specifically about the Bellevue University program? Is that the one you're referring to?

**G. MEYER:** Yes.

**ANDERSEN:** Yeah.

**G. MEYER:** What as an example, but, you know, we look at competing with drones, lasers, and stuff. And I know that there's substantial endowments across the country and many postsecondary education. It, it just seems like it's like letting the fox into the henhouse for some reason.

**ANDERSEN:** I would agree with you.

**G. MEYER:** Why do we do that? Why, why do we do that? Just on, just on first blush, it doesn't make a lot of sense to me.

**ANDERSEN:** Well, I don't want to speculate on why we would do that or why we haven't stopped that. But it is interesting, over the interim, I queried all of the universities in the state of Nebraska and asked them about ongoing relationships between-- specifically with China was the, the query. And Bellevue University was very unabashed in coming back and telling me the relationship that they, that they have. And it's actually a 4-year cooperative program. Guangzhou is, is the college in the Guangzhou region of China. And it's all about logistics and supply chain. And it seems counterintuitive to me on why if we have concerns about potential foreign influence on our supply chain and why we'd be educating people that, that may want to influence our supply chain on the process and how we run things. So it doesn't make sense to me, but I don't know what the mechanism is to engage with Bellevue University, probably a great follow on.

**G. MEYER:** Thank you.

**MURMAN:** Any other questions? Senator Hughes.

**HUGHES:** Thank you, Chair Murman. Thanks for bringing this Senator Andersen. How far is the reach for indirect funding? So a lot of times, universities collaborate with other universities, out of state universities. And if they're-- like, potentially, like, we've got that tractor resource lab here at our ag campus. If you're working with, I don't know, Iowa State or some other university together on something and they have been funded from one of these, like how, like, how far, I guess, does the university have to go to make sure this is all happening?

**ANDERSEN:** Right, like how many places we move kind of thing.

**HUGHES:** Right, yeah, kind of, yeah. Degrees of separation.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

**ANDERSEN:** It's a great question. This, this bill really doesn't get into that, because that, that is really kind of a, a, a rabbit's hole that you could go down in and you could end up all over the place.

**HUGHES:** I mean, the web is huge, right? Researchers working together.

**ANDERSEN:** The potential is tremendous. That's right, with front companies overseas and things like that, you have the, the potential for having something two, three, four, five times removed, but still causing the same kind of national security risk is absolutely a concern. This bill doesn't get into that great of detail. It simply looks at the individual states that are named, the nations that are named, and then some of them have affiliates that are, are named in here. For example, in Qatar, the Muslim Brotherhood is named in the bill, as well as Al Jazeera Media. So some of these things that are directly owned by the state are considered to be part of the state. So now if you want to call that removed, I don't know, maybe that's halfway removed. But if it's a, a government-owned entity, then we consider it tied directly to the government for those reasons. Does that make sense?

**HUGHES:** OK.

**MURMAN:** Any other questions? Senator Conrad.

**CONRAD:** Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Senator Andersen. Quick question. So this measure came in late, why is that?

**ANDERSEN:** The what?

**CONRAD:** The measure was introduced late, why is that?

**ANDERSEN:** Because it was introduced, it was brought to me by the Governor, and it came at the very end of the cycle, so we worked to get it as quickly as we could, but, unfortunately, it was, it was delayed in being presented.

**CONRAD:** So the first you heard of it was after the 10-day period for bill introduction?

**ANDERSEN:** No, it was near the latter part of it. But it was, it was within the 10 days. It was just us being able to get to Bill Drafters, and as you're well aware, Bill Drafters at that point in time are in a complete thrash trying to get everything done.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

**CONRAD:** OK. So I want to draw your attention to the, I guess, the legislative finding section that you put forward in Section 2. In the first paragraph, you provide some general language describing the role of institutions of higher education, but you've mentioned nothing about academics. Do you think that's an oversight?

**ANDERSEN:** You're talking about Section 2, which paragraph? Paragraph (4), is that what you said?

**CONRAD:** Page 2, Section 2, section-- sub (1).

**ANDERSEN:** 2, Section 2.

**CONRAD:** I'm looking at your original bill, too. I see you just handed out an amendment. I guess it probably follows.

**ANDERSEN:** Yeah, it completely addresses some of the responsibilities with the shifting from the Auditor to the Attorney General that it was more appropriate for them.

**CONRAD:** OK.

**ANDERSEN:** So you're on the original bill.

**CONRAD:** Yeah, it looks like your legislative findings are the same in the amendment or in the measure that you introduced here. I'm just asking why you left off-- it's, it's a description of the purpose of postsecondary education and you didn't mention anything about academics.

**ANDERSEN:** I, I figured that that was self-explanatory, postsecondary education by default is academics.

**CONRAD:** Then you go on in that same section to indicate that institutions of higher education are acting as adversaries who are exploiting democratic values. Can you give specific examples of how that's happening in Nebraska?

**ANDERSEN:** In Nebraska, no, but there are testifiers that will tell you about other examples. And, and we're not-- this is not accusatory of anybody in Nebraska as we really just discussed. Bellevue University's relationship with China is not an accusation. It's simply an explanation of one of the things that we're referring to that may be of concern. Yeah, so this is preventive and protective in nature of

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

the universities, the colleges, and the students and the programs and, and the state security as well.

**CONRAD:** All right. Do you need the legislative findings in this legislation to move the bill forward?

**ANDERSEN:** What do you mean?

**CONRAD:** Are they required to move the bill forward?

**ANDERSEN:** What do you mean the legislative findings?

**CONRAD:** You've got a host of legislative findings in the measure. They are general intent language, but they're not, they're not, they're not necessary to pass the legal components or mechanics of your bill. And I think a lot of them are very problematic and out of alignment with how we normally present legislative findings in Nebraska. So we can go through them one by one, or I'm asking if you're willing to strike those and then move to the substance of your bill?

**ANDERSEN:** I'm happy to work with you offline and figure out if there are-- if there is a change that needs to be made. We'd certainly entertain bringing an amendment.

**CONRAD:** OK, because that just-- that looks like kind of a mismatch of I'm not even sure what your source material is for half of those things. Do you have sources for each of those that you can provide the committee?

**ANDERSEN:** I would refer you to the testifiers.

**CONRAD:** OK. So did you question the Governor's Office when they brought this bill to you what those sections meant if you didn't know?

**ANDERSEN:** I typically do not question the, the accuracy and the genuineness of the Governor's Office. No, I don't.

**CONRAD:** Well, I understand. I am an enthusiastic student, not an expert on all of the matters before this Legislature. So if I, I don't know, I usually try to figure it out before I, I put it in. But did you look at it or did you just-- you just blindly said if the Governor gives it to me, I'm putting it in?

**ANDERSEN:** No, I trust the Governor and they provided data which was provided to you and there's other-- here's another report that came

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

out of open press about the A&M relationship with Qatar that was problems that I referenced in my opening.

**CONRAD:** OK.

**ANDERSEN:** So some of it is really just open source, you can go find the articles and that's how I found the Bellevue University relationship was simply Googling it and then contacting them directly and asking them about the relationship.

**CONRAD:** And then could you tell me-- you have spent a lot of time supporting measures in regards to this cracking down on foreign adversaries, whether it's, you know, in a lot of different contexts. The list of hostile countries or adversarial countries that you have in this measure are different than the other pieces of legislation that have listed different adversarial countries. So why is that?

**ANDERSEN:** Well, I wouldn't say that I have done a lot of work with it. They may be referring to the drone bill last session, in which we referenced the CFR, which was the, the federal list of adversarial nations. But with further information coming to, to light, it seemed smart just to, to expand that list.

**CONRAD:** Well, you had a similar bill targeted higher education disclosure, which I've got a cleanup on this year that we've talked about.

**ANDERSEN:** LB306, I think you're referring to.

**CONRAD:** Yeah, exactly. And, then, so you have done that work in addition to your drone bill and then I think then supportive of Senator Bostar's and other measures that are all in the same sphere. But-- and those-- they have different sets of adversaries listed than this bill does. So I just am trying to reconcile kind of why that is and what would take precedence or if there needs to be some sort of harmonization amongst that.

**ANDERSEN:** I would say they are mutually complementing, actually.

**CONRAD:** OK. So I don't know if you've had a chance, Senator Andersen, to follow some of the, the recent developments or news developments about the intended or unintended consequences that went with Senator Bostar and Governor Pillen's efforts to crack down on adversarial nations, which resulted in some negative implications for a host of

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

Nebraska companies and their economic development objectives. Have you had a chance to follow any of that?

**ANDERSEN:** No, I've not been part of that discussion.

**CONRAD:** OK. But, I mean, it's just in the newspaper and things.

**ANDERSEN:** OK.

**CONRAD:** Do you read the newspaper?

**ANDERSEN:** Sparingly.

**CONRAD:** OK.

**ANDERSEN:** Only to keep up on what's of interest and happening in Nebraska. That's about it.

**CONRAD:** Yeah, I, I agree. I, I don't-- I kind of try and stay laser focused on Nebraska news so that we can do our job. It's hard to, to get everything accomplished on the reading list. But as part of that, the execution and implementation of that measure, which was brought under the same auspices, it's been reported that a lot of tax experts and a lot of other experts that are looking at that legislation see that there's a, a bunch of problems with it and violations of federal law, preemption, some tax issues, etcetera. So I, I think we have a fairly cautionary tale right in front of us about what happens when Nebraska tries to dabble clunkily in foreign policy. And I want to make sure that we learn from that cautionary tail before we just headway into additional efforts here. Have you talked to anybody about preemption in regards to your legislation?

**ANDERSEN:** No, but foreign policy is not, is not in my lane, it is not my specialty. This is simply regarding the sanctity of the university-- postsecondary universities and colleges and how best to protect them and ensure the integrity and national security of, of their interests. So not foreign policy, this is about the university system and helping them.

**CONRAD:** OK. So it seems to also have a pretty broad grant of open-ended authority to the Governor and to the executive branch to make modifications herein. Can you tell me a little bit more about your thinking in that regard? I mean, I can understand why a Governor would want that because, of course, they want more expansive executive power but we are prohibited from delegating legislative authority to

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

any branch of government or any state agency and I think you're maybe-- walked right up to that line if not jumped over it. So can you tell me a little bit about that language?

**ANDERSEN:** Sure. It simply says that the, the government can, can designate an adversary. Now, there are representatives from the Governor's Office that maybe will explain, explain what that process is. This bill was vetted through the AG, so it is constitutional. So, yeah, if there's any questions about that-- the, the legal rights of the executive branch, I, I suppose the, the AG is probably the best place to, to go ask that question.

**CONRAD:** What would be the criteria for the Governor to designate a foreign adversary?

**ANDERSEN:** I don't question the Governor. It would be his discretion in the way, the way the bill is written.

**CONRAD:** It's unbridled. He can declare any country a foreign adversary in-- under your bill.

**ANDERSEN:** Again, I don't know what the, the process is in the executive branch. It probably would be best to address them and ask them.

**CONRAD:** OK. And then this is an issue that you've probably heard a lot about, and I know you did in the previous bill targeting the university that you had in this regard in casting dispersions as to their motives and mission and objectives, but you understand that we have legal precedent in Nebraska that says the university is a separate independent entity of government. The Legislature cannot dictate policy to the University of Nebraska. It's commonly known as the Exon decision, which has stood in place for decades, and our Nebraska Supreme Court has said this is how the relationship between the Legislature and the Board of Regents works. How does your bill not violate the Exon precedent?

**ANDERSEN:** Well, first, I'd like to correct your statement when you said that I made comments that were accusatory in questioning the motives of the universities. That's absolutely not true. As I said in my-- earlier in my testimony, this is not accusing anybody of anything. This is all about how do we strengthen the systems, how do we protect the universities and protect the students within the universities? If you-- if there's a question about the, the

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

implementation and legality of it, again, I'd refer you to the Attorney General's Office.

**CONRAD:** OK, so you haven't grappled with that. And, I mean, Senator, the words--

**ANDERSEN:** It's not, it's not grappling. There's no accusation of the universities of any wrongdoing. There's no motivations.

**CONRAD:** In Section 2-- on page 2, Section 2, sub (1), you declare that institutions of postsecondary education--

**ANDERSEN:** Hold on, let me catch up, let me catch up with you.

**CONRAD:** --are, are exploit-- are exploiting democratic values and acting as adversaries.

**ANDERSEN:** OK, so you're on the original bill, right?

**CONRAD:** Either one, I think it's the same language in your amendment.

**ANDERSEN:** Page 2. Where are you-- where in page 2?

**CONRAD:** Page 2, Section 2, sub (1): Institutions of postsecondary education-- these are your words-- play a vital role--

**ANDERSEN:** Yes.

**CONRAD:** --in research, national competitiveness, development of future leaders, and nurturing core American liberties, and should be catalysts of strengthening ties with American allies who share our democratic values rather than adversaries who exploit them. So you're making a clear claim in your legislative findings that institutions of postsecondary education--

**ANDERSEN:** No, that's not true.

**CONRAD:** --are acting as adversaries--

**ANDERSEN:** No, that's inaccurate.

**CONRAD:** --who are exploiting democratic values.

**ANDERSEN:** That's a misinterpretation of the paragraph. What it speaks to is talking about the ties with American allies and, and, and looking at the sentence and the ways it's written and the grammar and

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

all that. Allies who share our democratic values refers to the allies, right, rather than adversaries who exploit them. Adversaries as opposed to the allies. That's the point. We should befriend our friends and not friend our enemies, if you want to put it in a different language. That's kind of the point.

**CONRAD:** OK. Thank you. Thank you, Senator. Thank you, Chair.

**MURMAN:** Other questions? If not, thanks for your open. And we'll call for proponents for LB1262. Good afternoon.

**KENNY ZOELLER:** Good afternoon, Chairman Murman and members of the Education Committee. My name is Kenny Zoeller. That is spelled K-e-n-n-y Z-o-e-l-l-e-r, and I serve as the Director of the Governor's Policy Research Office. I'm here today to testify in strong support of LB1262, and I'd like to thank Senator Andersen for his collaboration to introduce this important bill on behalf of the Governor. Nebraska's postsecondary, postsecondary institutions are the engines of our state's future. They house our most sensitive research, train our next generation of leaders, and develop the technologies that will power our economy. However, these institutions have also become primary targets for foreign adversaries in countries of concern seeking to bypass national security protocols through soft power influence in academic espionage. While federal, while federal law, specifically Section 117 of the Higher Education Act, requires universities to report foreign gifts, a 2020 federal investigation revealed that this reporting is systematically uninclusive. Current thresholds are too high and enforcement is too weak. In an effort to protect our academic institutions, LB1262 implements three key safeguards: First, it lowers the foreign gift reporting threshold from \$250,000 to \$10,000, to close a transparency gap. Second, establishes a public database so Nebraskans can easily track the source of university funding. And, third, prohibits contracts with designated foreign adversaries and countries of concern. By moving these financial ties out of the shadows and cutting off agreements with hostile regimes, this bill ensures Nebraska's research and intellectual property remains secure from foreign influence. Another key component of this bill is the prohibition of the Confucius Institute. These entities are not merely cultural exchange programs. And they have been documented by the FBI and the State Department as tools of the Chinese Communist Party used to monitor students, stifle free speech, and influence curriculum on American soil. Under LB1262, Nebraska will join a growing list of states whose campuses are for the free exchange of ideas, not for the propaganda for foreign regimes. Further, LB1262 replaces the current

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Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

operational approach to reporting with rigorous accountability standards. Under this act, any institution that accepts a prohibited gift must forfeit its value to the State Treasurer and violations face up to a 5-year suspension from receiving state-funded research grants. By empowering the Attorney General with specific authority to investigate and enforce these rules, we're sending a clear message that securing our homeland starts at home, and we will not allow foreign adversaries to purchase influence in our state or harvest research funded by Nebraska taxpayers. That being said, I'd be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.

**MURMAN:** Thank you. Any questions for Mr. Zoeller? Senator Hughes.

**HUGHES:** Thank you, Chair Murman. Thanks for coming in, Mr. Zoeller. So I had written a note on this before, and then Senator Conrad had kind of mentioned it. Would it not be easier just to include it as the foreign adversary list, as that then the feds are updating that on our true enemies, and then it's not in statute a certain country or whatever, it's that list that can be referenced? I, I just wonder if that wouldn't be a cleaner way to do it.

**KENNY ZOELLER:** I think-- I mean, that's an option that the committee has, and obviously the Legislature has to update this piece of legislation.

**HUGHES:** Because we've done that with other legislation.

**KENNY ZOELLER:** Yeah. We'd be happy to, to work with the committee on that. The only thing that I would, I would say and part of the reason why the country of, of Qatar is mentioned is because they are the largest foreign giver to universities across the country. The last data point that I have is roughly \$6.5 billion of total gifts given to universities across America. In regards to foreign influence and foreign gifts to the-- to Nebraska institutions, the last I checked, I think Nebraska receives roughly \$55 million from all foreign entities, and I don't believe receives any significant funding from, from Qatar or other types of entities, the largest of which I think is China, as Senator Andersen mentioned before. So the only thing that I would mention in terms of why Qatar is in there is because they are the largest funder of university systems across the country. And rather than having to pull back in future legislatures significant gifts given to a state university system or private college that could be influencing, you know, higher ed within the state of Nebraska, it may just be easier not to accept those gifts to start.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

**HUGHES:** See, and this is just-- I'm not-- talking about foreign policy, not on my radar, don't we have a huge Air Force Base there or aren't we cooperating with them in some aspect militarily wise? So I guess I don't-- are they our adversary or not? I don't-- I mean, is that up, up to Nebraska to decide or federally if we are cooperating? I, I don't know, that's just where I'm confused, I guess.

**KENNY ZOELLER:** I, I think that's a great question. I wouldn't necessarily worry about military assets across the globe because we also have a naval base in Cuba, but they are a foreign adversary. What, what I do know and what we're able to publicly research is there is some concern regarding Qatar influence into higher education. And what we do know, whether it be from the federal government asking states to be more involved with safeguarding key institutions ranging from our power grid to higher education, oftentimes what foreign adversaries or foreign countries view states as, we are the soft underbelly in order to influence American geopolitics. So in terms of the specifics when it comes to, you know, who is on the adversary list or who isn't, you know, that's not necessarily the state's, the state's expertise. Rather, we need to make sure when we are developing policy and passing laws in the state of Nebraska, we are doing so so that there's not any undue influence that can happen here.

**HUGHES:** OK. Thank you.

**KENNY ZOELLER:** Yep.

**MURMAN:** Any other questions? Senator Juarez.

**JUAREZ:** So I'm curious when you have this list that you have of our foreign adversaries, is that actually a conversation that you had with the Governor as to who should be on the list?

**KENNY ZOELLER:** Yes.

**JUAREZ:** And are you in agreement with who's on the list?

**KENNY ZOELLER:** Yes.

**JUAREZ:** OK, but I want to make sure I understood what you just said. In regards to Qatar, you had a concern because they've given us a lot of money. Given a lot of money in our country to postsecondary?

**KENNY ZOELLER:** Yes.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

**JUAREZ:** That's the reason?

**KENNY ZOELLER:** It is a combination of the amount and then what those dollars are then used for and there are going to be other testifiers behind me that can provide specifics, whether it be Columbia University or other higher education institutions, where they've seen some, some concern as to, as to what those gifts are used for.

**JUAREZ:** OK, I'll wait on my questions. Thank you.

**MURMAN:** Any other questions? Senator Conrad.

**CONRAD:** Thank you so much, Mr. Zoeller, for being here. And I guess just follow up on some of my questions that my colleagues had and some of the questions I had for Senator Andersen. So I know everybody's at least time crunched preparing for session and getting their bills in but I know you worked diligently year-round. Why, why did the bill come in late?

**KENNY ZOELLER:** We had some conversations with stakeholders, individuals to be testifying after me.

**CONRAD:** Who?

**KENNY ZOELLER:** The individuals that will be testifying after me. We received this idea, you know, I want to say around the day 1 or day 2 time period. And we worked diligently with Senator Andersen's office to get the idea up to Bill Drafters. And oftentimes what happens, a request comes from us because we are the Governor's Office and we have the ability to make legislation at the request of the Governor to help out the workload with Bill Drafters to introduce something past the 10-day window. So that's what happened in this instance. Given the volume of requests that are sent up to Bill Drafters, we were accommodating and wanted to make sure to respect the work that they do. So that's why this legislation was introduced late.

**CONRAD:** OK. Do you, you need-- are you committed to the legislative findings section or can that be stricken?

**KENNY ZOELLER:** I think we'd be happy to work with you guys to, to strike that if that's going to be the prohibiting factor of this legislation moving.

**CONRAD:** OK. That would, I think, be helpful, because it is a lot to unpack. Definitely more than we have time for in this hearing, unless

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

we're here till midnight. But I-- I'm curious as to what criteria would be utilized by the Governor in designating additional adversarial entities or government?

**KENNY ZOELLER:** Are you asking within the act or hypothetically if this act were to pass?

**CONRAD:** If this act were to pass, because it seems to have a pretty broad grant of open-ended authority to the Governor's Office to make a decision as to who is on or not on the list.

**KENNY ZOELLER:** Yeah, so I-- you know, I can say in a hypothetical situation, if, if this legislation were to pass, knowing Governor Pillen's decision-making process, he would coordinate with our federal partners before adding any country on the list. Recently, he was just added to the President's Council, which is a combination of 10 governors, five democrats, five republicans to deal with national security related issues. So he would work with our federal partners before designating any entity in the act. Now, obviously, as you mentioned and alluded to, the language itself is broad. Be happy to either work on that language to put additional parameters from the Legislature before any such country were to be listed.

**CONRAD:** And I-- as I noted, you may have heard, I, I think that you and the Governor's Office worked with Senator Bostar on a similar measure in recent years, which has a different list of adversarial nations. So do those need to be harmonized or is there a reason for the difference in terms of designation for hostile or adversarial nations in the two measures?

**KENNY ZOELLER:** I don't, I don't believe the two measures would have to be harmonized. I think they would be interpreted independently of each other.

**CONRAD:** OK, then why would we have a different list of adversarial nations for one purpose and a different set of adversarial nations for a different purpose? Are they adversarial or not?

**KENNY ZOELLER:** I think it goes back to the question that Senator Hughes posed to me and part of the reason of having an additional country on this list is given the, the total amount of gifts that are given from that specific country to institutions of higher learning. So that-- I think that's part of the reason as to why this list has

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

one additional country on it is just because this happens to be the country that provides the most dollars to institutions of higher ed.

**CONRAD:** So basically your criteria is just the level of support from any federal government that makes it adversarial?

**KENNY ZOELLER:** It's a combination of level of support and then the, the requirements that are given to those institutions when they receive those-- when they receive that support. And as I mentioned before to Senator Juarez, there's going to be testifiers behind me that can flesh out in specifics of what other universities I've seen ranging from Northwestern University to Columbia of some specific requirements that those institutions faced when receiving these gifts.

**CONRAD:** OK, because I'm sure it might not-- I just remember this came up when we had Senator Andersen's bill last year, maybe it was in a fiscal note or maybe it was in the hearing, but like honestly the United Kingdom has-- I think is way high on the list in terms of hundreds of millions of dollars that they provide to institutions of higher education in, I don't know if in Nebraska specifically, but across the United States, so are we targeting them? And if not, why not? I mean, is it-- what is the criteria is my question?

**KENNY ZOELLER:** Yep. Yep. To be-- so I think England is number three in the country when it comes to total gifts in higher education for, you know, in the United States. You know, once again, it, it is a combination of what are the requirements around the gifts, which testifiers behind me will, will flesh out in terms of what we have seen from other institutions, as well as what is the historical relationship with those countries. You know, you mentioned England. They are a NATO Alliance partner. They're a country that has been a, a friend to the United States and clearly identified as such for a long time period. So it is not necessarily the, the level of, of the amount of gifts that are given. It has to be the level amount of gifts given along with what are the strings attached to those gifts to those institutions, so.

**CONRAD:** Are you, are you suggesting that the gifts have come with strings that violate state or federal law in these other institutions, not happening in Nebraska, I guess? I don't know.

**KENNY ZOELLER:** So that specific question in terms of violation of state or federal law, from some of them that I've been able to research, there's specific religious requirements in terms of

awarding, you know, contracts within certain nonprofits. That would be, I think, a violation of, of-- if the state were to impose that, that would be in violation of, of both federal and state law. There's also concerns, you know, referencing back to the Northwestern University, a gift that was provided in their journalism school where there was specific requirements put upon that journalism school to not research or not to provide any journalistic reporting items that would be-- that would critique the state in which the country was in. That, once again, isn't necessarily-- I would view that against federal law in terms of protected speech, but that was a-- an instance where that institution was located in the country of Qatar. So I don't necessarily know if that would be a violation of our constitutional rights. But it is something that I know the Governor wouldn't be approved of or wouldn't approve of, so.

**CONRAD:** So you were worried about something that happened at Northwestern University that would present-- prevent criticism of another government?

**KENNY ZOELLER:** That is a specific example of some of the, quote, strings attached to gifts that I could come off the top of my head, so.

**CONRAD:** OK. How does that square with the Governor's desire, desire to support legislation that prevents criticism of the state of Israel?

**KENNY ZOELLER:** I don't think that that-- I don't think that those two things would be equivalent.

**CONRAD:** OK. You worked closely with Senator Bostar to introduce LB644 and shepherd that to passage and pass despite a host of different objections. Perhaps you are more up to speed on recent news developments than my friend Senator Andersen was in this regard, but I think you're well aware it's pretty well established that passage of that legislation has caused quite a few either intended or unintended consequences dependent upon the explanation, dependent upon the day in regards to economic development for a Nebraska company. So I think that should be pause for concern before we continue just jumping in to try and, I don't know, talk tough, be tough against China or whoever it is. But when we dabble in foreign policy without a clear understanding of the legal implications writ large, it, it causes issues and problems. Like, what are you going to do to fix LB644 first?

**KENNY ZOELLER:** Well, I think if I could maybe comment on one of the, the statements leading up to the question. I mean, the issues with LB644 are incentive-based, they're not, they don't necessarily deal with identifying a country of foreign concern. So, you know, hypothetically the Legislature, if you were to pass and the Governor were to sign into law additional requirements into an incentive agreement that aren't necessarily defined, that is-- that's, that's what happened in LB644. So I'm not, I'm not following in terms of the changing the incentive program or making tweaks to the incentive program itself, whether it'd be advantage or imagining and identifying countries of concern in statute. I'm having trouble squaring those up.

**CONRAD:** OK. Who brought this legislation to the Governor's Office?

**KENNY ZOELLER:** Like I said before, we'll have two testifiers that are part of an organization that brought it to us.

**CONRAD:** Mm-hmm. So you-- I mean, you just don't want to say or--

**KENNY ZOELLER:** No, I mean, they're, they're going to testify after me.

**CONRAD:** OK.

**KENNY ZOELLER:** Yeah.

**CONRAD:** OK, thank you. Thank you, Mr. Zoeller. Thank you, Chair.

**MURMAN:** Any other questions? Senator Hunt.

**HUNT:** Thank you, Chair Murman. Thanks, Mr. Zoeller. So Qatar is on the Board of Peace. They gifted Donald Trump that \$400 million airplane, no strings attached, going to be the new Air Force One. What if President Trump retaliates against Nebraska for putting this country on our list of foreign adversaries to the state?

**KENNY ZOELLER:** In-- I, I don't understand, in what way. Like, retaliate in what way? If I could-- sorry, I can't ask a question to you, but if you could expand upon that, it'd be helpful.

**HUNT:** Do you have any, do you have any concern that that could happen since-- I mean, to, to the United States, it sounds like Qatar is not a foreign adversary. It sounds like they're huge allies to us right now.

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Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

**KENNY ZOELLER:** I don't have any concern at this time that there would be any retaliatory factors from passing this legislation.

**HUNT:** OK. Thank you.

**KENNY ZOELLER:** Yep.

**MURMAN:** Any other questions? If not, thanks for your testimony.

**KENNY ZOELLER:** Thank you.

**MURMAN:** Other proponents for LB1262?

**DAVID SOFFER:** Good afternoon, Chairman, members of the committee. My name is David Soffer. I'm the Director of State Engagement for Combat Antisemitism Movement, here today in strong support of LB1262 and wanted to thank the Governor and-- Governor Pillen and Senator Andersen for their leadership in advancing this critical piece of legislation.

**MURMAN:** Excuse me.

**DAVID SOFFER:** Yes.

**MURMAN:** Could you please spell your first and last name?

**DAVID SOFFER:** Oh, I'm sorry.

**MURMAN:** No problem.

**DAVID SOFFER:** David, D-a-v-i-d, last name Soffer, S-o-f-f-e-r. And do you need me to spell the organization or--

**MURMAN:** No, that's good.

**DAVID SOFFER:** Perfect. So just getting back. You know, CAM tracks anti-Semitic incidents globally. In 2025 alone, there's been more than 6,000 anti-Semitic incidents, 250% increase compared to pre-October 7 levels. The United States has more anti-Semitic incidents than any other country in the world. And particularly alarming is a 300% increase in school-related anti-Semitic incidents since 2022. Anti-Semitism, like other forms of hate, is not, you know, doesn't arise organically. It's learned, it's reinforced, it's normalized like any other hate through institutions, incentives, and unchecked influence. One contributing factor is the flow of foreign money into our education system with insufficient transparency or oversight.

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Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

While the full scope of foreign funding is still unknown, recent transparency efforts have helped shed light on that. Federal accountability portal recently created in January, has identified at least \$67.6 billion in foreign gifts to U.S. in contracts, U.S. colleges and, and universities. Since enforcement began in the 1980s, however, a 2020 report from the U.S. Department of Education shows more than 70% of institutions failed to comply with federal disclosure requirements and many that did comply substantially underreport it. Of that \$67 billion, \$14 billion is from Qatar in China making up 21% of the total foreign funding received. Transparency is essential because foreign governments and affiliated actors often pursue strategic interests and may conflict with American values. One example is China's People's Forum-- involving China as a People's Forum. It's a New York-based organization that has publicly acknowledged receiving funding from Neville Roy Singham, a U.S. technology entrepreneur now residing in Shanghai, with documented alignment with the Chinese Communist Party. As noted by the House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Jason Smith, multiple reports have found the People's Forum to be part of a broader network used to disseminate pro-Chinese Communist Party narratives. How does the People's Forum connect to anti-Semitism? It was reported in 2024 that the People's Forum executive director worked up around 100 mask-wearing activists the night Columbia University buildings were taken over by mass rioters. On top of chance of Columbia wants to be like masters in Israel, make it untenable for politics of usual to take place in this country. Of the 44 arrests, 12 were not students, including with some ties to the People's Forum. These are not abstract, federal investigation congressional reports have identified extensive research with regard to China. As Senator Meyer had mentioned, there's also involvement in Nebraska. Qatar provides another instructive example. So in the case of Yael Canaan v. Carnegie Mellon University, a federal judge concluded that a reasonable juror could infer that substantial Qatar funding may have influenced university decision-making in ways that permitted anti-Semitic bias. Court cited evidence that a senior diversity and Title IX official whose salary was partially funded by Qatar discouraged a Jewish student from filing a formal anti-Semitism complaint raising serious concerns. I know my light's up.

**MURMAN:** You do have the red light, but you're welcome to continue.

**DAVID SOFFER:** I appreciate that. Thank you for the leniency. Similarly, as noted in the preamble, agreements between the Qatar government and Northwestern University imposed restrictions on academic freedom at its Doha campus and led to the removal of the

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

university's standard anti-Semitism training requirements. These are just a couple of examples that illustrate why LB1262 is so urgently needed. Clear rules, meaningful transpar-- excuse me, meaningful transparency and enforceable safeguards are essential to protecting academic integrity, national security, and student civil rights. When those are ignored, when institutions fail to take hate seriously, such as anti-Semitism, or fail to uphold their values, when safety, dignity, and equal treatment are compromised, we are all at risk and unfortunately our education systems see the result of that. This is an important step forward in connecting the dots. Thank you for your time and considering this vital piece of legislation.

**MURMAN:** Thank you. Any questions for Mr. Soffer? Senator Hughes.

**HUGHES:** Thank you, Chair Murman. Thank you, Mr. Soffer, for coming in. Just from listening to what you said, you, you really appreciate the transparency, knowing where the financial, you know, the, the money is coming from, so to speak. This bill, though, says, no, you're not going to have-- you're going to accept those gifts. You're not going to have that contract. You're not going to work together. Is that what you want to support or would you prefer more that it's just as transparent as can be that, you know, for us, the University of Nebraska System is getting money from-- this much money from XYZ?

**DAVID SOFFER:** So that's a great question. Unfortunately, to date, you know, where universities have had-- and, again, I'm not speaking about any university in general, universities have had the opportunity to be transparent about those dollars. And as I mentioned in, in my testimony, over 70% of either underreported or not reported at all. So for us, I-- you know, what I would say from, from Combat Antisemitism Movement's perspective, these are dollars that are harmful to the values of, of our system, of our education system, and create a, a serious concern for, for what is going on. At the bare minimum, there should be a requirement of transparency of all foreign dollars that come into our system. But, but in this specific case with, with, with these countries as a whole, there is a lot of concern from, from both the State Department and the examples I cited that show that there is-- those dollars are influencing those universities in a way that is harmful to our students and to our value system.

**HUGHES:** OK. Thank you.

**DAVID SOFFER:** Welcome.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

**MURMAN:** Senator Meyer.

**G. MEYER:** Thank you, Chair Murman. Thank you for coming in today. Your last-- part of your last statement was that reports come in unreported or not reported at all. What do you think the basis for that would be that universities would not report funds coming from certain, certain entities or do they not report fully from all entities? Is, is it just specifically some of those that are named in this particular bill or is it underreporting or not reporting all entities that donate money?

**DAVID SOFFER:** I appreciate, I appreciate the question. So my analysis is, is from a 2020 U.S. Department of Education report. I don't want to speak on behalf of universities for what they may or may not choose to do, but what I would say is, is the report found that for whatever reason they chose not to disclose, sometimes it was because they had a nondisclosure requirement in the contract that they believe prevented them from disclosing despite the fact that it is United States law. There are other reasons as well. I'm, I'm happy to send the report to the committee for, for you all to read through and analyze, but I would say that there's a lot of different variables in that, and I, I don't want to be the one to speak on behalf of the university or any, you know, universities or any university as to why that may, may be happening.

**G. MEYER:** Thank you.

**MURMAN:** Any other questions?

**JUAREZ:** I have a question.

**MURMAN:** Senator Juarez.

**JUAREZ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Soffer, for coming in. A basic question that I have is I want to know did you actually speak with the universities about your concern that you're presenting to us today?

**DAVID SOFFER:** So are you, are you asking about a specific university that we spoke to?

**JUAREZ:** Yeah, our postsecondary in our state, did you speak with any university administrators about your concerns?

**DAVID SOFFER:** I don't believe we personally spoke to any, to any specific university in Nebraska. As, as mentioned, I think-- for instance, you know, in Nebraska, I don't believe it received any money

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

from Qatar and it received some dollars from China. We did speak with the Governor's Office, which the Governor's Office highlighted from a policy perspective, but we did not speak with any specific university.

**JUAREZ:** OK. Thank you.

**MURMAN:** Any other questions? If not, thank-- oh, excuse me, Senator Conrad.

**CONRAD:** No, that's OK. Sorry, no, thanks. I'll say it for Senator Andersen since it's related to one of his bills. Sorry.

**MURMAN:** OK.

**DAVID SOFFER:** OK.

**CONRAD:** Thanks.

**MURMAN:** Thank you.

**DAVID SOFFER:** Thank you. Appreciate it.

**MURMAN:** Other proponents for LB1262?

**DAVID COLLINS:** Good afternoon, Mr. Chair, committee members, committee members. My name is David Collins, D-a-v-i-d C-o-l-l-i-n-s. I'm a Senior Research Fellow at George Washington University, their program on extremism. Prior to that, I was an FBI agent for 21 years, so I spent 20 years working terrorism. And half of that was Hamas Muslim Brotherhood specifically. Qatar has built an extensive influence in U.S. politics, academia, media, and business through sustained spending and elite engagement, while Islamist networks tied to Muslim Brotherhood-linked activism evolved from 1960s student movements into durable American institutions with political reach. This examines two intersecting dynamics, Qatar's expansive influence campaign in the United States and the institutional evolution of the Muslim Brotherhood-linked networks domestically. First, Qatar. Qatar has become a significant foreign actor in U.S. politics, security policy, media, business, and higher education. Through large-scale financial investments, bipartisan lobbying, public relations operations and elite relationship building, Doha has positioned itself as a strategic U.S. partner while maintaining ties to Islamist movements, including Hamas and figures historically associated with the Muslim Brotherhood. The Islamist ties: Qatar has hosted prominent Islamist clerics and continues to host Hamas's political leadership. Its state-funded media

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

network Al Jazeera has been criticized for amplifying narratives sympathetic to Islamist movements. Since 2017, Qatar has spent hundreds of millions of dollars on registered lobbying and influenced efforts building relationships across political parties, the defense establishment, and media sectors. Some influence-related cases have resulted in criminal and deferred prosecution outcomes. Qatar has invested tens of billions of dollars across strategic U.S. industries and is the largest foreign funder of American universities, contributing over \$6 billion since 1986. Academic partnerships and educational programming have raised questions about academic freedom and foreign leverage. Collectively, Qatar's strategy blends security, cooperation, economic integration, and soft power to secure durable influence, whether this reflects pragmatic statecraft or a structural vulnerability in U.S. institutions remains debated. For the Muslim Brotherhood, Islamist networks in the U.S. emerged from Muslim student activism in the 1960s and evolved into nationally established religious, educational, and advocacy institutions. The Muslim Student Association, founded in 1963, became the foundational platform for leadership development and organizational expansion. Some key developments: During the 1970s and 1980s, leaders built enduring infrastructure, including umbrella organizations such as the Islamic Society of North America and intellectual entities like the International Institute of Islamic Thought, supported in part by foreign funding. Internal documents introduced during the Holy Land Foundation trial describe a long-term strategy of embedding institutions within American society. By the late 1980s, elements of the network were active in voter mobilization and policy advocacy. Although direct foreign funding has declined, many institutions have demonstrated durability through domestic fundraising and public funding streams. Overall, the development of Brotherhood-linked organizations reflects a multi-decade process of institutional entrenchment, ideological propagation, and political participation. Together with, together with Qatar's external influence strategy, these dynamics raise broader questions about foreign influence, alliance management, and the resilience of American political and civic institutions. So thank you for your time.

**MURMAN:** Thank you. Any questions for Mr. Collins? Senator Meyer.

**G. MEYER:** Thank you, Chairman Murman. Thank you for coming here today, sir.

**DAVID COLLINS:** Yes.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

**G. MEYER:** I'll ask you that same question regarding lack of reporting or underreporting. What do you-- I know it's hard to speculate on motivation, but if it's widespread with regard to lack of reporting or underreporting, what do you think would be the basis for that?

**DAVID COLLINS:** I think we could just kind of spitball what those are. Some, there's-- they're just trying to hide money. It's frustrating on our part because I think there's enforcement actions that could be taken both at the federal level, at the federal level, I can't speak for the state level, and those actions are taken to hold entities accountable for, for the transparency in there and the, you know, movement of money, whether it comes into the United States or whether it leaves, leaves the United States going to foreign.

**G. MEYER:** I realize doing your FBI background and your anti-terrorism background there's probably many things you cannot share with us and I have an appreciation of that. Why do we partner with our enemies?

**DAVID COLLINS:** I'm sorry?

**G. MEYER:** Why do we partner with our enemies or our supposed enemies? And I'm not, I'm not identifying any of these specifically, although China could be at the top of the list, but why do we institutionally with our higher education, why do we partner with our enemies?

**DAVID COLLINS:** That's a very-- probably a complex question.

**G. MEYER:** We have time.

**DAVID COLLINS:** Why do-- why-- you know, why does the U.S. Government partner with foreign governments that may be viewed as an enemy of us? Is that what you're-- is that the question?

**G. MEYER:** In general. I, I-- you know, I understand the fact that the enemy of my enemy is my friend and to a certain extent in the geopolitical climate that's certainly a large factor. I understand that.

**DAVID COLLINS:** I think that's a big part of it.

**G. MEYER:** But it seems like money coming over here to influence our youth at the university level, but the universities don't want to report that funding. That seems somewhat clandestine to me, and I, I find it troubling.

**DAVID COLLINS:** So if you go back to the early 1990s, the Hamas leadership and infrastructure that was here in the United States at the time, post Hamas's creation, they're, they're very strategic. The Muslim Brotherhood are very calculated, they think long term, which works really well here in the United States. Here in the U.S., I think we think-- you know, we plan out spring break, we might plan out summer vacation, but that's about as far as we, as we think. And the Muslim Brotherhood specifically, they think in multi-generational terms, and so they were very smart. They, they came together in 1993 in a conspiratorial meeting to where they knew that Hamas was going to be designated, for example, and they were specific in targeting media, politics, and higher education, because they knew that the higher education facilities, that those institutions are going to be training our next policymakers, our next senators that are going to sit in state governments and sit in federal governments and so they put that plan into place back in the early 1990s. And so when you see, you know, for example, the October 7 terrorist attack in 2023 and you see the response on October 8. And the response on our U.S. campuses as some of the most, you know, elite universities in our country, it's kind of tough to wrap your head around and see where-- how in just a matter of decades it's turned to where you have this mass response to those attacks and where that narrative has completely flipped and where, you know, October 7 didn't happen. It's all of, for example, Israel's response to that. And, again, that goes back to the-- to that infrastructure in the U.S. targeting those universities and having, and having success there. And I think there's a variety of reasons of why that. I mean, we were all 18, 19 years old at one time. We all think-- you know, 18-year-olds think they can do it, at least my 18-year-olds think they do it better than their parents and the older generation. And so that's just a very target-rich environment for bad actors, bad entities that will go there and sort of flip the narrative and normalize the hate against, you know, different-- whether it be the U.S. or our allies.

**G. MEYER:** I appreciate that very much. I at some point in time wouldn't mind having a private conversation with you.

**DAVID COLLINS:** Yes, sir.

**G. MEYER:** Thank you very much.

**DAVID COLLINS:** Yes, sir. Thank you.

**MURMAN:** Any other questions? If not, thank you for your testimony.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

**DAVID COLLINS:** Thank you, sir.

**MURMAN:** Other proponents for LB1262?

**JOHN MURANTE:** Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, members of the Education Committee. For the record, my name is John Murante, J-o-h-n M-u-r-a-n-t-e, here today as a registered lobbyist for State Shield in support of LB1262. I want to thank Senator Andersen for his continued work on this subject matter as well as the Governor's Office for pursuing this, this measure. State Shield is an organization which seeks to protect the United States from the growing influence of the Chinese Communist Party in the United States. We want to thank you, the members of this Legislature, for your ongoing efforts and your recognition of the magnitude and, and scale of, of the threat that we are facing. We have pursued, with your help, meaningful legislation on drones, on higher ed, higher ed legislation that we passed last year, which we think sends the right message and, and moves the state in the right direction. LB1262 is, I think, a logical extension of that. We know that the statistics have been discussed at length today, the amount of money that is flowing through universities in this country, and we believe that the safest course of action is to take the foreign adversaries and their money out of our university system. As Senator Andersen said, that's not a statement at all about our university system. As a matter of fact, in our discussions last year with the university, we found them to be very willing partners in this discussion, and we tried to make the legislation that this Legislature passed as administratively feasible as possible, and we worked together on amendments to get that amendment, to get that amendment passed, the bill adopted, and signed into law. So the continued efforts by Senator Andersen, the Governor's Office, and this Legislature is always appreciated. We believe that the foreign adversaries that are listed on-- in this bill are reasonable, given the nature of what we're talking about and the subject matter here, and would be happy to answer any questions that you may have, but more than anything, appreciate your continued support.

**MURMAN:** Thank you. Any questions for Mr. Murante? Senator Hughes.

**HUGHES:** Thank you. Thank you, Chair Murman. Thanks for coming in, Mr. Murante. So to be honest, I had not heard of State Shield before. You said that your specific is protecting the United States basically from the Chinese Party.

**JOHN MURANTE:** Chinese Communist Party.

**HUGHES:** OK. So to this legislation-- so the past stuff that clearly State Shield has supported, you said you've worked with the folks, use that foreign adversary list. This has a few of those plus more. Do you-- I just-- I'm wondering, you, you put-- you list countries into statute and 10 years from now we look back and it's like, oh, there are-- it's Canada now. I, I don't know, you know? Is it better to stick with that list because I just think then it's referencing something that's not-- you know, that doesn't have to be changed every time it's changed? And does State Shield look at anything outside just the Chinese Communist Party?

**JOHN MURANTE:** So the primary focus of the organization is the Chinese Communist Party. And so, first, there are several federally adopted foreign adversary lists.

**HUGHES:** OK.

**JOHN MURANTE:** There isn't just one list. And it's promulgated by different agencies, by different departments based on the risk that, that they are seeing. So there are multiple. But in all of them, even in the bills that have been passed in the Legislature, it all has to refer to a specific list on a date certain. So we can't just say-- and that the Legislature cannot delegate to the Congress what is-- what we determined to-- you couldn't pass a bill to say that our definition of a foreign adversary is just whatever the federal government is. That's why all of those bills included a-- on that list in a specific CFR on the date certain because then we would have-- if the federal government needed to make or wanted to make a change, then we would have to do the same. So whether it's listed--

**HUGHES:** Oh, it doesn't-- it can't be kind of live in other words.

**JOHN MURANTE:** Exactly. So one way or the other, for us, our point of view, it's a dime one way, 10 cents the other. You can list the countries out, you can reference a CFR from a federal level on a date certain.

**HUGHES:** I guess I had made the assumption if we were referencing a federal list 10 years from now, that list is different than it was today. Now it's changed, but you're saying it's not. It was referencing the list from 10 years ago, that's what stuck.

**JOHN MURANTE:** So in the bills that I can recall, it was usually a, a CFR of a date certain, and that date was, was usually January 1 of the

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Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

year the Legislature adopted the bill, which seems reasonable. And that's been-- we've discussed this subject matter on relying-- there are federal definitions we'd like to use them and that's--

**HUGHES:** Well, I just think they're more consistent.

**JOHN MURANTE:** Right. Mm-hmm.

**HUGHES:** And then I'm just curious. So State Shield is funded by?

**JOHN MURANTE:** The President and CEO is a gentleman named Joe Gebbia.

**HUGHES:** Joe Gebbia?

**JOHN MURANTE:** Mm-hmm.

**HUGHES:** How do you spell that?

**JOHN MURANTE:** G-e-b-b-i-a.

**HUGHES:** So-- and how long has State Shield been around?

**JOHN MURANTE:** About 5 years now.

**HUGHES:** And so it's a national organization--

**JOHN MURANTE:** Yes.

**HUGHES:** --and then they hired your firm as-- to lobby for them?

**JOHN MURANTE:** In Nebraska, yes.

**HUGHES:** Yep. OK. Thank you.

**JOHN MURANTE:** Mm-hmm.

**MURMAN:** Any other questions? Senator Juarez.

**JUAREZ:** OK. Thank you for being here today. I just have a basic question just because of trying to get myself more educated on these foreign adversaries. You just made a statement that there are several lists.

**JOHN MURANTE:** Mm-hmm.

**JUAREZ:** So why would there be different countries on different lists?

**JOHN MURANTE:** So, basically, the nature that they come out of the state agencies or the federal agencies based on the threats that they are seeing. So, for example, there are lists relative to public finance and what finance professionals cannot invest in. There are lists that are strictly developed by the Department of Homeland Security. Actually, Senator Andersen has a bill later this week that, I think, goes into virtually every single one of those lists and specifically goes through every single list that exists at the federal level. And, and that's where the federal government's coming from.

**JUAREZ:** So if I wanted to go and find out the different lists, how would I begin to do that?

**JOHN MURANTE:** To navigate the federal government system, I would say it would take a lot of work. We would be happy to help if that's what you're asking, if you-- if you're asking how a member of the general public would find out, it would take some research on their part. It would take some time and research. We could provide it for you because we've already done the research but, but a member of the general public I don't think would be generally, widely aware other than North Korea. I think most people would suspect that they're on the list, for example, [INAUDIBLE].

**JUAREZ:** So that's something that you could provide to our committee.

**JOHN MURANTE:** Oh, absolutely.

**JUAREZ:** OK. Thank you. I would like to have it.

**JOHN MURANTE:** Mm-hmm.

**MURMAN:** Any other questions? If not, thanks for your testimony. Other proponents for LB1262? Any opponents for LB1262? Neutral testifiers for LB1262? Senator Andersen, you're welcome to close. And while he's coming up, online we had nine proponents, six opponents, and one neutral.

**ANDERSEN:** Thank you, Chairman Murman and members of the Education Committee. I also want to thank the Governor's staff for their assistance and the multiple testifiers here today. LB1262 is an important step forward in the work we've already done to combat foreign influence in our institutes of higher education. This bill is about maintaining the integrity of our higher education system and ensuring national security. We must protect all of our students and safeguard one of our nation's most important assets, our intellectual

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Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

property. And one comment I would say, the handout you were given, you were given two different documents. One was the amendment and the other one is-- yeah, it starts out with this. So when people say that there's no reason for concern, if you peruse the document, you'll see that there's a lot of different money coming into the university system that originated in China. Again, not accusing any institution to saying that it is cause for a pause and say, hey, let's take a look at this. And this legislation goes a long way to make sure that we are actually putting in place the safeguards to protect the institutions as well as the people, the national security, and intellectual property. And with that, I look forward to working with the committee to move LB1262 to the floor for consideration by the entire Legislature. I'm happy to take any questions.

**MURMAN:** Thank you. Questions for Mr.-- Senator Andersen? Senator Conrad.

**CONRAD:** Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Senator Andersen. I think that perhaps some members of the committee were a little bit confused because there's some transparency components in regards to your legislation, but there's a whole lot of other legal and policy restrictions in regards to the legislation that you have before us today. But just to refresh the committee's recollection, you brought a bill last year, LB378, that meant to lower thresholds and close gaps in reporting for foreign funds coming to institutions of higher ed based upon what you found to be incomplete information with the existing federal system and this committee worked with you and the institutions of higher ed and that passed. That's, that's the law, that's--

**ANDERSEN:** Right.

**CONRAD:** --on the books in 2025. So the transparency piece, we literally dealt with last year, right? So you don't--

**ANDERSEN:** Part of it, that's correct, yeah.

**CONRAD:** So what's different about the transparency and reporting provisions in this measure versus what we passed in LB378?

**ANDERSEN:** In LB378, that really got into-- it didn't get into the endowment side, the foundations, the grants, and things like that, which this, this bill actually does. And it expands the number of adversary countries, organizations.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

**CONRAD:** Does that expanded list coincide with what's required at the federal level?

**ANDERSEN:** Which expanded list?

**CONRAD:** That you just mentioned.

**ANDERSEN:** Of the adversarial countries?

**CONRAD:** The countries and the additional--

**ANDERSEN:** Organizations from those countries?

**CONRAD:** Yeah.

**ANDERSEN:** I'd have to research and get back to you.

**CONRAD:** OK.

**ANDERSEN:** That kind of falls in line with the, the, the conversation about the list as Mr. Murante did mention. You know, there are multiple lists and, and maybe that is maybe a better reference. Certainly, happy to research that and get back to the committee on it.

**CONRAD:** Yeah, I just think there seems to be some confusion about who we're targeting here and why, and if the goal is transparency, we, we literally just did that last year. Like, literally. There's not a gaping hole in state or federal law in regards to transparency on this topic.

**ANDERSEN:** I think it's a different kind of focus, it's not-- I mean, what we passed last year was, was focused literally just on certain kinds of money coming in and we, you know, as you mentioned, worked with the University of Nebraska System and the other universities to make sure that it was done in a, a fashion that was most agreeable by them in, in the database that they're setting up and everything else.

**CONRAD:** So it's a little bit murky in regards to some of the testimony that we heard today and some of handouts that you put forward today and then some of the legislative findings and otherwise, but there seems to be some sort of indication that Muslim Student Associations are a threat to national security. Do you believe that?

**ANDERSEN:** I didn't say that.

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Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

**CONRAD:** OK, then what's, what's the reference to, to the Muslim Student Associations? Why is it a part of this discussion?

**ANDERSEN:** There's different articles happy to provide your staff with some of the background material on just some of the requirements that we've seen with other universities, that's been reported by-- with other Universities, and in this case with Qatar, and some of the restrictions on freedom of speech and, and some of the student organizations that they mandated to be in place. Again, this is not accusatory of anybody in Nebraska or anything else. This is simply preventive medicine.

**CONRAD:** OK, because you don't think that there's any problem with students organizing student clubs related to their ethnic identity or their religious identity or you do think there is a problem with that?

**ANDERSEN:** Do I think there's a problem with that? That's not really my place to say. I mean, that's what the universities do. If it is subversive, if it's violent, if it, if it creates and expands anti-Semitism, do I think it's inappropriate? Absolutely, I do. But am I going to sit here and tell you that, you know, what kind of clubs that the, you know, the university should have? No, that's not my purpose of this bill.

**CONRAD:** OK, because that, that does-- what your bill does though. I mean, it literally has restrictions for types of student clubs and things on page 5.

**ANDERSEN:** No, it restricts when they try to-- when the contract with the university says they have to hire a certain kind of people. It's more discriminatory in fashion or they have to have clubs for these people on this subject that-- does that make sense?

**CONRAD:** Not really. OK. So, Senator, you, you said that you don't want to cast any dispersions on Nebraska institutions of higher education, but--

**ANDERSEN:** I never have.

**CONRAD:** --I'm pounding-- I'm looking exactly-- did you pass out this document entitled: FACT SHEET: CCP Penetration of Nebraska Higher Education?

**ANDERSEN:** Right.

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Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

**CONRAD:** Is this your work? Who passed this out to us today?

**ANDERSEN:** It was received by my staff. I, I can, I can find out where-- the origination and let you know.

**CONRAD:** OK, but you, you brought it to the committee today.

**ANDERSEN:** I did.

**CONRAD:** OK, so let's--

**ANDERSEN:** Just not describing it, just--

**CONRAD:** OK, the first sentence says: Nebraska universities use, use Pentagon funding to partner with and help develop China's People's Liberation Army. That-- that's a pretty strong statement.

**ANDERSEN:** It's not a secret that the university is partnering with the Department of Defense--

**CONRAD:** Right.

**ANDERSEN:** --on different, on different research, right?

**CONRAD:** But the next part, the assertion that you're making is that Nebraska universities are using Pentagon funding to partner with and help develop China's People's Liberation Army. So tell me-- I agree that we work with the Department of Defense, there's no disagreement there, but that's-- you're saying something very different.

**ANDERSEN:** No, I'm saying it's a cautionary tale.

**CONRAD:** That we're working with the Pentagon to help the China's People's Liberation Army have--

**ANDERSEN:** Sure, I'm saying it's a cautionary tale that if, if you're doing DOD research and you're also partnering with the PLA you need to be careful that it may be inappropriate.

**CONRAD:** Who's partnering with the PLA?

**ANDERSEN:** Well, if you look on the next page, it shows about the money is coming into the, the different-- into the university.

**CONRAD:** OK, so you don't stand by the statement that you presented to the committee that Nebraska universities are using Pentagon funding to

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Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

partner with and help the China's People's Liberation Army? Is that inaccurate?

**ANDERSEN:** I can find out the source of the document and get back to you if you'd like.

**CONRAD:** I'm sorry, no, is that inaccurate?

**ANDERSEN:** I, I didn't generate this document, but I can find out where it came from.

**CONRAD:** Oh, you didn't generate this?

**ANDERSEN:** No, I didn't offer this, but I can find out where, where it came from and get you more information, get you a reference if you'd like.

**CONRAD:** Where did this come from? OK.

**ANDERSEN:** I'm happy to get you a reference and get it back to the committee.

**CONRAD:** Did this come from Mr. Zoeller? I didn't see who passed it out, I'm sorry.

**ANDERSEN:** I'm happy to get a reference and get it back to the committee.

**CONRAD:** OK. Let me just ask--

**JUAREZ:** No, we got them both at the same time.

**CONRAD:** OK. Let me-- I think they came with your amendment, but whatever. OK. Senator Andersen, do you remember or have you studied the Red Scare? Do you remember that period of time in American history?

**ANDERSEN:** You mean, the Soviet Union? Is that what you mean? The return to the Cold War is that what you're referring to?

**CONRAD:** Yes, generally, generally before proceeding that a little bit, but, yeah.

**ANDERSEN:** OK.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

**CONRAD:** Are you familiar with that, that chapter in American history entitled: The Red Scare in the 1950s?

**ANDERSEN:** I wasn't alive back then, but, I mean, certainly I understand what you're referring to.

**CONRAD:** OK. Yeah, I mean, you've heard of people like Joseph McCarthy. No, you never heard of him, Senator?

**ANDERSEN:** No.

**CONRAD:** OK. Who led a--

**ANDERSEN:** Senator McCarthy?

**CONRAD:** Yeah, Senator McCarthy. Did you ever hear of him?

**ANDERSEN:** Which part of this bill is that in reference to?

**CONRAD:** Well, I'm, I'm trying to kind of understand and work through some historical connections here. There was a, a period in our country now regarded as this very dark period in our country where there was a pretty unbridled witch hunt against communists and communist sympathizers that ruined lives, that cast dispersions, that questioned each other's patriotism and loyalty to our country that was, that was very divisive.

**ANDERSEN:** There have been a lot of divisive times in our history. Is there an implication?

**CONRAD:** I'm, I'm actually just speaking.

**ANDERSEN:** Oh, I'm sorry, excuse me.

**CONRAD:** And it was all under the fervor of ferrying now any sort of communist belief or support or sympathy and that seems to be at the heart of what you and the Governor and Senator Bostar and others are trying to do with these foreign adversarial bills, right?

**ANDERSEN:** That's your supposition. That's--

**CONRAD:** No, I'm ask-- I'm asking you. I said, I'm asking you.

**ANDERSEN:** I didn't say that.

**CONRAD:** OK, so your goal is not to take a hard line against communism?

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

**ANDERSEN:** I didn't say that either. I mean,--

**CONRAD:** I'm asking what is your [INAUDIBLE]?

**ANDERSEN:** --you keep putting words in my mouth. What I'm saying is, if there's threats to the, to the, the collegiate institutions, then we should do everything we can to protect them and the children, intellectual property, and national security. That's what I'm saying. Yeah, you can interpret it and you can, you can make it-- you can also correlate some part in history 70 years ago, if you want. But that's not what's in the bill, and that's not what I'm saying.

**CONRAD:** OK. The, the, the whole point of your bill and this hearing was to talk about potential communist party and adversarial nation influence on higher education.

**ANDERSEN:** Yes.

**CONRAD:** OK. Very good. Thank you, Senator.

**MURMAN:** Any other questions? Senator Juarez.

**JUAREZ:** OK. Thank you, Senator Andersen.

**ANDERSEN:** My pleasure.

**JUAREZ:** I have just a couple questions. Did you actually yourself interact with any university officials about this bill or is it just your interactions with the Governor?

**ANDERSEN:** I've had limited interaction with the Governor, and I have reached out to the government relations official at the University of Nebraska System.

**JUAREZ:** And did they, and did they get back to you when you reached out?

**ANDERSEN:** They came back with a statement similar to what they placed online.

**JUAREZ:** OK. One of the questions that I have in regards to the funds that may be coming to our universities, which, really, we don't know a finite dollar amount because universities apparently don't have to report everything. That was my understanding today, is that correct?

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

**ANDERSEN:** I don't, I don't believe that's true. I'd have to find the federal statute, but I think by federal law, they're responsible for doing that.

**JUAREZ:** OK.

**ANDERSEN:** You made me look at my notes now.

**JUAREZ:** Because I guess if the universities are receiving funds, you know, from foreign entities, do we not trust, I guess, the judgment of our university officials in how the funds are being used or the impact that it has on our institutions that we think we need to pass, pass this legislation?

**ANDERSEN:** Those, Senator Juarez, those are your words, not mine. I have on multiple occasions said there is no, there is no implication, there is no condemnation of any of the universities. I said it multiple times. So you, you saying that I said I didn't trust them is not-- is faulty, is inaccurate.

**JUAREZ:** Because you're not implying--

**ANDERSEN:** I didn't say that.

**JUAREZ:** --that at all.

**ANDERSEN:** So what I have said is that if there are adversaries that want to take advantage of the university system, we need to do everything that we can to protect the university system, the colleges, the people, the national security, and the students. That's what I've said. This is a protectionist bill. This isn't attacking anybody. This is protecting our university system and our students and our staff with [INAUDIBLE].

**JUAREZ:** OK. But, obviously, you feel that they need help in that area that we want to take a look at passing this bill. Do you feel more comfortable about that?

**ANDERSEN:** Sure. I'm a, I'm a full transparency and disclosure guy, right, full accountability, transparency, disclosure, all about it. The light of day is the best disinfectant because I don't see anything wrong with having people disclose things that are relevant to-- for the public or for this, this body.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

**JUAREZ:** The only other concern that I have is in regards to who is considered a foreign adversary since I learned today that there's more than one list. I'm concerned about how are we going to control our list or control who qualifies as a foreign adversary? I'm very, I'm very concerned about that with the bill since I learned today that there's more than one list. Do you have any concern about that since there's more than one list?

**ANDERSEN:** I think it depends on what the focus of the, the list is, right? If you're talking about for our universities, that's one thing. If you're talking about nuclear weapons development, there's probably a different list. If you want to look at biomedical research, there's probably a different list. I think depending on what subject you're looking at, there's going to be a different list of what's acceptable and what's not. I'm not the keeper of the list, I don't even have the list. I think Mr. Murante offered to assist you, provide clarity for you.

**JUAREZ:** Yeah, because I am, I am concerned about what we mean by foreign adversary. I'm, I'm still concerned about that in looking at and evaluating this bill.

**ANDERSEN:** Well, I'm very happy he's offered to assist you.

**JUAREZ:** OK. Thank you.

**MURMAN:** Senator Lonowski.

**LONOWSKI:** Thank you, Chair Murman. Thank you for being here, and I apologize if I missed some of this, so please indulge me in a couple of questions. Can you, can you relate to me what your experience was in the Air Force, what your job was? Is that not permissible?

**ANDERSEN:** So I-- yeah, at one point in time I was a Russian linguist. At one point in time I flew on the RC-135. A number of different jobs, technology development, things like that.

**LONOWSKI:** What is your security clearance with the military?

**ANDERSEN:** I really would rather not discuss that.

**LONOWSKI:** OK. I know it's quite higher than mine and it frustrates me. Do you make the adversary list or does somebody else come up with this list and say this is our foreign adversaries?

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Education Committee February 24, 2026  
Rough Draft

**ANDERSEN:** I do not make the adversary list.

**LONOWSKI:** OK. Thank you.

**MURMAN:** Any other questions? If not, thanks for bringing the bill.

**ANDERSEN:** Thank you, Chairman.

**MURMAN:** And that will, that will close our hearing on LB1262 and close our hearing for the day. And we are going to go into executive session. Oh, excuse me, excuse me. We've got two more bills.

**HUGHES:** Hopefully, no one's here to talk on them. Well, you have to introduce them, don't you?

**MURMAN:** Yep.

**HUGHES:** Were there any online for these?

**CONNIE THOMAS:** No, nothing.

**HUGHES:** No? Great. Senator Murman, you can open up on LB1051.

**MURMAN:** OK. Good afternoon, Vice Chair Hughes and members of the Education Committee. My name is Dave Murman, D-a-v-e M-u-r-m-a-n, represent Nebraska's 38th District. LB1051 is a placeholder bill to ensure that if, for some reason, an issue arises later in a session, in a session past the 10-day bill introduction limit, there is a pathway to a legislative solution. At this time, I do not plan to utilize this bill. I brought it simply for procedure. Any questions?

**HUGHES:** All right. Any questions? Nope. And there was-- well, are there any proponents? Opponents? Neutral? And you may close.

**MURMAN:** I'll waive closing.

**HUGHES:** OK, great. That ends LB1051 and there were no online comments of any sort. So now we'll do LB1052. Go ahead, Senator Murman.

**MURMAN:** Good afternoon, Vice Chair Hughes and members of the Education Committee. My name is Dave Murman, D-a-v-e M-u-r-m-a-n. Similar to LB1051, LB1052 is a placeholder bill brought simply for a procedural purpose. I also do not plan to utilize this bill.

**HUGHES:** OK. Any questions? Nope. Any-- ah, don't come in-- opponents? Proponents? Neutral? There are none, you are--

**MURMAN:** I'll waive.

**HUGHES:** OK, he's waiving to close, so that concludes LB1052, and that concludes the last bill of today. Thank you.