

I think that type of activity needs to be encouraged. They added to the class at no expense to the university whatsoever. If, in fact, a person, you know, like Senator Hefner, wanted to take a class, he could get credit if he paid the tuition, and, of course, there is no prohibition against that. I mean, you can take a class, pay the tuition, get the credit. But if you just want to audit the class for noncredit, space available, professor's permission, no additional cost to the university, then I think you should have that opportunity. It is...I didn't think it would be a controversial bill at all. As a matter of fact, I am not up here to debate discounts for senior citizens or bus passes for senior citizens or the whole philosophical basis of government entitlements. I am here to talk about a specific bill that has been approved in 25 other states, that's been implemented in 10 other states, that's been implemented in a lot of...in five educational institutions in our own state already. I think it should be put in statute to foster a good public policy to encourage education, particularly for senior citizens, an opportunity to participate in that process and to lend their knowledge and experience to the classroom setting.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Crosby, then Senator Landis, please.

SENATOR CROSBY: Mr. Chairman and colleagues, thank you. When I voted on this in the Education Committee I had reservations about it because of some of the very things that Senator Landis and Senator Hefner and Senator Lamb have voiced. However, as I have personal experience as a nontraditional student at the University of Nebraska, I am sure I was the most nontraditional student in the class of 1987. But, from my personal experience, that's the only thing I am going to talk about, really, is that I think that most of the professors, 99.1 percent of them have a grasp as to who is who and I think they would be extremely careful not to crowd the classes with students who are the over-60 people who are auditing only. I went...I wrote all the papers and paid full tuition so I think I can speak to this with some intelligence and I guess that's what I think that the professors do know and they are careful. There is a financial impact because a person is there and that uses up some of the energy of the class and of the professor. And if they are writing the papers, and so on, he has...he or she has to grade them. The other thing, I have no idea how many people might take advantage of this across the state, but it does take time and energy. And I think when some of them who think, well, this