

Senators Moore, Haberman and Schmit.

SENATOR WITHEM: Members of the body, just speaking as the Chairman of the committee that heard this bill, and as a co-sponsor, the JUMP Program is one of a number of innovative services that are being provided at the University of Nebraska campus that impact on elementary-secondary education. I think because I'm one that oftentimes compares elementary-secondary to higher education, and in some ways participate in that unfortunate pitting of the two elements of our education system against one another, I should point out that this is one area in which they work very well together. There is also an inservice program that is operated for science teachers that is an outstanding program; the Nebraska Writer's Project, helping high school teachers of writing become better writing teachers. Senator Bernard-Stevens, in committee, brought up an economics program that is offered. There is the Taft Institution for government teachers that is run through the university. I think this is the type of program that needs to be encouraged. It is one of those rare bills that comes through the Education Committee that has anything to do with education as far as how young people actually acquire skills and knowledge and become more productive citizens in our society. It is one I'm very supportive of. I'm also interested in getting more information about some of these other programs and making that available to you. I think Senator Scofield should be commended for bringing this bill to the attention of the Legislature, and I would urge you to support it.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Moore, you are next.

SENATOR MOORE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would Senator Scofield yield to a question?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Scofield, would you respond?

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Yes.

SENATOR MOORE: Senator Scofield, I was just wondering, looking at the fiscal note on this I noticed there is a 9,000 General Fund appropriation for a quarter time director of this program at the university. I guess I'd like to briefly have you explain what that quarter time person would do, and who it would be. Would it be somebody existing in the program? Would this just be additional pay to what they now get from the university, or