

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Mr. President, and possibly some points of clarification. First of all, I say you have to look at this being a...you know, the question of need keeps coming up. This is something separate from need and in my experiences in higher education I can assure you that right now in higher education the most needy entity are students that are coming out of the middle income families. There are financial aid opportunities for people who are poor. There are, naturally, the economic stature of those that are wealthy and they don't have a problem going to school. The most difficult group right now are those who are just high enough income level where your family may have the wherewithal that those numbers, due to the calculations, don't get you in on guaranteed loans, don't get you in on SSIGs and Pell grants and these kinds of things, you don't qualify but yet your income is not so strong or healthy that you can really afford to send the person to school. And so this is really where you're probably going to find more people using this particular technique than anything else. I think if you just search your own financial situation, many of the people in the body, much like myself, are in that middle income, lower to middle income category in part because we're here I suppose, but in many cases our incomes would still be just high enough that our children would not qualify for a lot of the financial aid that is there and we're going to foot the bill. And to have an opportunity like this where there is enough incentive with a little bit of state tax deduction which wouldn't amount to a whole lot...

PRESIDENT: Senator Conway, may I interrupt you a moment, please?

SENATOR CONWAY: Sure.

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) Let's hold the conversation down, please, so that we may hear the speaker. Thank you, Senator Conway.

SENATOR CONWAY: The incentive to the individual wouldn't be all that great, that all I can deduct from my taxes are the state income tax portion of that amount, but it may be just enough to try to entice a few people to save ahead of time so that we are not at a crisis point. You know, it's almost like a withholding mentality so that people will move in those directions to try to have those funds available when their children are ready to go to school, or for Aunt Martha or whoever else that wants to