

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR CHIZEK: ...from an income of 90,000 to an income of 70,000. A married couple could participate fully if their taxable income were under 60, between 60 and 70. The maximum credit would be reduced one-half. A nonmarried contributor with an income exceeding 55,000 cannot claim any deduction whatsoever. That will help our targeting even more and should reduce the fiscal note's guess at state cost. Now maybe you want to review those numbers more, but I would hope, colleagues, that we are ready to compete for our youth in that we want our young to stay, and I would hope that we recognize that this bill is a major part of the overall higher education problem in funding in this state. I would ask your support.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the Chizek amendment. Senator Moore, followed by Senators Nelson and Withem.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. Speaker and members, those of you that were present the last time we supported...debated LB 140 will remember that I rose on LB 140 with two basic concerns, the first of which, how can the state recover lost interest after the fact, go beyond the statute of limitations. And at that time, Senator Conway rose and answered my question quite thoroughly that we could probably do that, and compared it with an IRA, that the state was safe, and that it could, indeed, recover such lost interest on past the statute of limitations. The second concern that I raised that day, and I raise again today but in a little different light, if you look at the graph that I pointed out, this is state student aid comparability for Nebraskans, you can see that Nebraska ranks far behind the five contiguous states, the five Big 8 states, the nine Midwest states, and the United States average, Nebraska ranks far, far behind them in total state student aid for the SSIG overmatch, and that was my concern then, and my concern was that Senator Chizek's LB 140 would, indeed, compete with those funds. Now Senator Chizek mentioned it is not his intent for them...for his bill to compete with those funds, but there is some concern that, indeed, they will. Regardless of that, it is important to realize that I guess I, after contemplating the purpose of LB 140 and Senator Chizek's present amendment, which eases some of my fears, that my concern was that this bill was targeted primarily to those people that could only afford to use it.