

SPEAKER BARRETT PRESIDING

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah, I guess I just want to make one quick response to Senator Nelson and then let Senator Smith have the remainder of my time. I punched my light to respond to any questions or arguments that anybody might bring up. Senator Nelson, yesterday with our committee amendments on 651, we took care of a lot of the problems that you were describing of a situation where the only thing to consider for need is cost of institution versus resources that were available. So I think we did take care of that quite a bit. Senator Smith was in the process of asking questions of me and of Senator Warner, her time ran out, so what I would like to do is yield my time to her if she has further questions or comments that she may wish to make.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Smith, please.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you. Thank you, Senator Withem. I appreciate that. I, first of all, would...I would have to stand here and dispute with my friend, Arlene Nelson, for just a second, and then I do have another question that I would like to ask Senator Warner. First of all, Senator Nelson, I would point out to you that this is a needs-based program and the federal requirement is that according to what we are talking about here that we need to also take into consideration cost of education. And, in addition to that, I would like to remind you that even though you have a program where your tuition, as you are saying, or your cost might be 8,000 versus four, and then only the wealthy can attend those kinds of schools, I guess what I am trying to do is say we should get around that fact, that we should also allow for some choice for those people. For instance, the same kind of people you are concerned about for nursing education who have jobs, who are trying to get their education, who can only attend school on a part-time basis, to stay in the community nearest to them, rather than have to travel long distances to try to get that education, and the bottom line is that this is need-based, so these people that would be making this choice to attend that kind of an institution, an independent college, would not indeed be wealthy people or they wouldn't have the scholarship in order to do that. The other thing is that I would like to ask Senator Warner one more question, which is based on what we have been