

the existing system. And I think we need to look at all of those things. So that's what this amendment does. It also adds two of our most favorite clauses, the severability clause and the emergency clause for purposes of, you know, particularly if we do decide to do something with the Attorney General's Opinion with Kearney State, we'll need the severability clause. And if we're going to get at addressing the issues of higher education, we ought to put the emergency clause on it, get this commission started and get them out doing something so it is an action-oriented get-to-it sort of study as opposed to a, well, let's put this issue on the shelf for a couple of years and ignore it and pretend like we're studying it. That certainly is not my intent. My intent is to get it a study that will actually bring about some changes. As we go on in here, we may have a dialogue about why we need study when we've already had more than a shoe box full, an orange crate full of studies done in this...I think that was an orange crate that you brought in, Senator Warner, with your different studies, and that we've already had a lot of studies. And it's my intent with this one that we not talk about do we need some changes but that we commit ourselves, as a Legislature, to making some changes and getting the data that we need to make good changes. With that, I would urge you to adopt the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, sir. Discussion on the Withem amendment to LB 247. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, I haven't had a chance to review in detail Senator Withem's proposed amendment. But from his last comment, I would like to at least have some chance to further understand what is being proposed here. He said we need to consider the need for change and he expressed his own desire to see Kearney State's situation changed and it appears to me that the intent of the amendment is to try to facilitate the potential change that's being discussed and will be discussed in a few moments perhaps with another amendment, that we need to understand the need for change and then prepare for that change. Well, I, for one, do not necessarily feel that there is a need for change and that change is inevitable. I think we ought to have a neutral study that identifies the current system that we have, understands its role in our state and its future and then looks at change and potential alternative change and comes to a conclusion as to what's best for the State of Nebraska and if it happens that the current system that we now have is, in fact, the best system for