

the State of Nebraska, then I see no reason why we need to anticipate that there will be change or must be change or anything along those lines. So I want to make it absolutely clear, and I haven't had...I will try to read Senator Withem's amendment in the next few moments, but before I am willing to vote for it, I don't want to see a bias interjected into this study. I think it ought to be fair with an understanding that it's an attempt to be neutral and factual and beneficial to everybody in the State of Nebraska and that we need to look at all of our alternatives, not just what's new but what's existing, what the best choices are for the state. And, in my estimation, once we go forward with that, if that study is, in fact, unbiased and fair and looks at all of our options and comes to a conclusion that I don't, at this point, agree with, then I'm going to be I think bound to try and support those changes if they are best for the State of Nebraska. But I'm not going to go into this with a set preconceived idea as to what is best. I'm not going to rule out any considerations and I'm afraid, from some of the comments, that maybe that may be a part of this amendment and, having not read it, I don't know if that's the case, but I want to be very clear about my concern to be unbiased and fair and open-minded about any study that we do.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you, Mr. President and members, I'm not sure that my remarks will be completely on point in regard to this amendment but sometimes it's difficult to get on the speaking agenda here in regard to the total issue. And so, as I mentioned the other day in regard to a tech college bill, community college bill, that was being debated, I have been somewhat frustrated about the postsecondary educational system in the state and I support LB 247 that Senator Withem has introduced for study on that system. Now, my problem is this, that I have not taken a stand on whether or not Kearney State College should be a part of the university system. That's not the issue. But I will be opposing that amendment when it comes up today for one very simple reason and I think that the study will be short-changed if we go ahead and address the Kearney State Problem in this bill, because that takes off much of the pressure in regard to postsecondary education that is now being generated. And I see that if we do deal with the Kearney State issue in this bill, then there will be no pressure, there will be nothing done beyond that. The study...we may have the study but it will not be implemented, it will not be acted upon and we