

adopt this amendment because it does do a number of things to improve the bill. It gets a more specific sort of study, it streamlines it so we have a better time line, it puts the study under the Legislature as opposed to being under some free floating body out there and I think, if we're going to make any changes, we need to make that very clear. I don't know if it clarifies the role of the community colleges any more than the original bill does, but, hopefully, it does also do that. So I think the amendment basically is a good bill. I'm going to ask you to vote to adopt the Withem amendment at this point, not to let your views on the Kearney issue color the situation, and then let's get an up or a down vote on whether this study ought to be a specific reference to the Kearney issue or not. So, with that, I ask you to adopt the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. The question is the adoption of the Withem amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted that care to? Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 7 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Withem's amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Withem amendment is adopted. Do you have anything further on it, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, I do. I have other amendments filed earlier, but as Senator Withem is principle introducer, Senator Withem would move to amend the bill. (Withem amendment appears on page 1573 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, the amendment is a very simple bill. It takes out the specific references to Kearney State within the study, doesn't mean they won't study Kearney State. Kearney State, obviously, is one of the seven four-year campuses we have in Nebraska and, obviously, will be part of the study. But, if this amendment is adopted, the Kearney amendment...Kearney is no longer specifically mentioned in the bill. I offer this for a very specific reason. Senator Wesely, I see you sitting here. I may even let you do the closing on this amendment, if you chose to, because I'm not for this amendment. I want to make it very clear I am not for this amendment. I think the Kearney issue is one that has become so critical, it's the one that has brought all of our attention onto higher ed, brought all of our