

Senator Withem just gave the best arguments and maybe he ought to go back to closing, the best arguments about why you want to vote for his amendment. He went through time, after time, after time, problems he's had and we've all had them, with higher education coordinating and cooperating together. We have a problem here, Kearney is part of the problem, it is not the whole problem. We focus far too much on the Kearney issue, and it's really dividing us, and that is fine. I love a good fight, and I think we ought to do it every once in a while. It cleanses our souls, as some people have been talking about lately. But, nevertheless, if you put Kearney in as it is right now elevated, you'll have the same problem, dealing with a broader context of higher education issues, as you're having right now trying to determine how we even approach this study. As long as Kearney is singled out, the study itself will have problems moving beyond it, and that's why I think in terms of a level playing field and in terms of an effective study you need to adopt this amendment and deal with this thing in a fair, even-handed way.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Scofield, did you wish to speak about this?

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Yes. If Senator Withem would respond, I want to just make sure I know what I'm talking about here. First of all, I understand he's saying let's separate Kearney from this study, I think. But, at the same time, I'm saying I recognize that that is an issue that has to be resolved, and I want to know would you reiterate for me exactly how you're going to do that, Senator Withem?

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, the amendment, as drafted, will just take specific references to the words "Kearney" out of the bill. There is still a phase one that looks at governance, and a phase two that looks at role and mission. The reason for that is Senator Wesely characterized phase one as being a Kearney study, and it's not. We need to look at governance and those other sorts of things, so it would still be the two phases.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you. That helps, Senator Withem. I think, as we all read that, my concern all along has been that just the question of moving one piece, as I said before, of a complex puzzle could end up driving this whole study. And once we've made that decision then I think we might be tempted to ignore many other relevant and important factors here. Without