

discussed. I do want to deny the chance for it to pass, however, because I think it is so onerous and offensive and negative to come to this Legislature and be considered at this time. And why do I feel so strongly about it? I feel so strongly about it because we are considering at this very moment a bill to conduct a study on higher education in this state, to understand its implications, and its future, and try to come to a conclusion as to what direction it should take. The very moment we want to take that study underway and begin that process, we want to jump to the conclusion that some people want to reach from that study and implement it prior to the study. I think that is foolish. It is pure foolishness. I think in terms of what the public must think about us, I hope they realize that there are many of use that think first you look at an issue, consider it, contemplate your alternatives, and then you take action. You don't determine the conclusion, you don't move to the conclusion prior to knowing what your options are and what the issues are. And so with that brief comment, I simply would oppose the suspension of the rules and allow us to proceed to discuss the study issue, proceed to discuss how we examine this matter, and not continue to burden us down with the Kearney State particular issue and demands that are being placed on us, when we have broader, more important issues to consider first.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Beyer is announcing some guests in our north balcony. We have 49 eleventh grade students from American Government class out of Gretna. Would you people please stand with your teacher. Thank you very much and we are very pleased to have you with us this afternoon. Further discussion on the motion to suspend the rules, Senator Kristensen, followed by Senators Abboud, Langford, and Scofield.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members. I find Senator Chambers comments very good. It makes me a little scary, too, that I start to agree with him. Maybe it is because the per diem checks came out or something, everybody is in a good mood, I don't know. But, seriously we have a crisis in this state, and if we don't address this issue today, the Kearney State issue is not a new issue. It is not one that just fell off the truck. It has been here all session. It has had its public hearing. It has had its public debate, and now is the time for it to be debated in this Chamber. And the crisis that we have is a result of an Attorney General's Opinion. Senator Scofield alluded to it but, quite frankly, I want to