

happened. If you bring Kearney into the university's system, there is still a great part of the state that will still have the problems Senator Kristensen talked about when it comes to access of graduate programs. You have not solved the problem. You have only just simply made the university system, they said they're the ones that offer graduate programs, you may have helped out the Kearney region to get graduate programs, you've still not solved the problem in Chadron and Peru and Wayne and Falls City and Hemingford, all the way across the state. That's the problem we have to get to. That's what Senator Withem's original bill was trying to do and I think Senator Warner's amendment really is premature. I...I...Kearney State's a university, that's going to happen.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR MOORE: I don't know if it's a university in its own right or within the university system is something that I need a little more time to look at. And, with that, I urge the opposition to the Warner amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wesely, Senator Kristensen on deck.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker and members, I hope not to be redundant and I hope not to wear out my welcome in trying to discuss this issue. I wouldn't repeat myself and continue to make points if I didn't feel very strongly about this. First off, you must remember the Governor, the Board of Regents and the Board of Trustees have all taken positions favoring a study of this issue before action. I don't think anybody has ruled out the possibility of Kearney coming into the university's system. I think they prefer and where I would prefer that we go is to understand the implications, understand the options and make a decision in full knowledge of what we're doing rather than hastily reaching a conclusion. Frankly, I know that in terms of the lobby corps those individuals have done next to nothing to deal with this issue. They're all watching and listening while there is strong lobbying on behalf of Kearney State to come into the system. So if you listen to the lobby, if you listen to the lobby, you're going to have to, I guess, go ahead and vote for this amendment. But if you listen to the people and I think if you listen to your heart and your head, you will have to realize that the better course of action is to study and consider what we're doing here and to take the time to make the right decision, not proceed and possibly irreparably