

clearly the Omaha senators supported this effort from Kearney. They see the university as one that spreads its resources across the state without regard to the understanding of the need to prioritize, target and try to define the excellence that we need. That doesn't mean we don't do those things, we try to do those things. Access has to be there across the state, but as we go forward, if we had a plan and a study that understood what we wanted to accomplish and what will it take to accomplish that, we'd know better the kind of financing, what commitments we're in for and if we have that will and desire to to go out and spread the opportunity across the state and still maintain the focus that we need to have and have the will to provide the funding to do that, then, fine, I'm for that. I think that's wonderful. But my fear is, my concern is, this state has not been willing to fully fund, as they should, or adequately fund as they should, higher education. And when we add to the situation, as I said before, where another effort is made to perhaps not provide higher quality or more for the state, but simply to get more funding, that worries me. It worries me a great deal and it's a legitimate worry and not an attempt, I think, to be selfish but an attempt to be recognizing and cognizant of the real dilemma that we're going to be in as we move forward. And in addition, I am in no way attempting to, as Senator Withem put it perhaps toward me, pout. I'm not pouting, I'm arguing, I'm fighting, I'm representing. I'm making the case as best I can and you can surely reject it as you have on the last amendment and you can vote not to kill this bill. I understand that. You all are representing your interest as best you can. But I am trying to do the same thing and I am trying to share with you what I feel, and I'm trying to make sure that as we proceed, at least, you've heard the other side, the other argument and you can reject that, that's fine. And I'll respect you for having made what you think is in the best interest of your district, perhaps what you think is in the best interest of the state. But certainly this is no small issue, no small matter and it has an impact far into the future and I, personally, feel it worthwhile to discuss it and argue it and have difference of opinion and if that means that some individuals are mad at other individuals, and that's okay, I'm not mad at anybody. I'm just trying to make the right choice here and I think we made the wrong choice and I'm offering you a second chance to change that.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. The question is, shall LB 247 be indefinitely postponed? All those in favor vote aye, opposed