

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wesely, about three, two and a half minutes.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, you know, I talked before about the other three state colleges as the abandoned stepchildren of higher education if we move forward with Kearney moving under the university system. And this amendment is an attempt to highlight that concern that we do not address, although the study may raise the question about what happens to them. My point is that studies have been done and the one study that I know of this decade that I think was done pretty well, recommended that we have all the state colleges brought under the university and that the university regents be appointed, not elected. It was not an unreasonable proposal. The concept of bringing the state colleges under it was not pursued. Their concept of appointive regents was and we fell a few votes short of seeing that on the ballot, but that's the way you have to approach this higher education issue. Is it in a total approach, not just a one-campus approach, and that is the main concern here is what happens to the other campuses? Not just the state colleges as is in this amendment, but the other campuses as well, but we don't address it this way and we don't address the governance, the election question, the how we will resolve the different particular items that I raised earlier. And so I'm particularly raising this point to again send the message that there are other interests out there, unrepresented and unaddressed at this point and I would like very much to see that we bring all of the state colleges under this, if it is constitutional, put Kearney underneath the university. It's just as constitutional to do this, and once you do it all together, then you truly will have what some people have claimed the Kearney amendment will accomplish and that is an attempt to coordinate higher education and plan and cooperate better.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time.

SENATOR WESELY: So I would suggest a better course at this time is to not abandon those state colleges, but to bring them along and to include them in this legislation, see if it's constitutional to do that and then address those issues as best we can. So I would ask your support for this amendment to accomplish that goal.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The question is the adoption of the Wesely amendment to LB 247. Those in favor vote aye,