

I think in general as an institution they've tried to do a good job. But the real situation, there isn't, I think, as much as Senator Withem has described it, as it is a sense of political reality. We talked earlier about Kearney is in reality university. Well, I don't necessarily buy that. But I can tell you this, I do buy political reality is what dictated the regents position, or at least some of the changes in position, to the point where they are acquiescing to this bill. This amendment is a save face amendment to try and say, well, if the study says that we shouldn't do this, while the Legislature says that they'll reconsider, and I say bah, humbug, because I think that, number one, the study is going to say the Legislature overwhelmingly is obviously in support of Kearney State coming into the university, and no study is going to, I think, change that course. Just as the board of regents backed off, after saying they had the marching orders to come in and challenge that Kearney amendment, when they counted the votes and saw where they were they certainly didn't want to make the challenge. Some study committee is not going to change the course of direction for this body, the policy-making body of the state. They're just simply not going to reach that conclusion. The study... Right off the bat the study isn't going to reach that conclusion. But even if it did, let's say I'm surprised and I stand up here and eat my words, I'll tell you this body isn't going to reconsider. I've seen it too many times. Tough, difficult issues, you've made up your mind, you'll be back here, many of you, you're not going to change your mind unless some unbelievable change or some incredible event occurs. I've seen it before, as Senator McFarland said, on the tax issues, whether it be the studies that come out on 773 or 775, we come back, we tell you the study results, we show you how things are wrong and need to be righted, never do we see the support of a majority here to make those changes. So this body has a tendency, once a tough issue is decided, to leave it behind and move forward, whether good or bad, whether it worked or didn't work, and that is an unfortunate problem that we've had. So, frankly, I... you know, I'll support this because I think if anything it says we should think more about this. If, for some reason, we open our eyes and change our mind, we should do something about it. But I have no expectation that that will happen. Again, I emphasize on the regents and their handling of the whole situation, you know, it's just unfortunate the way this whole thing has come about, that they weren't involved early, involved in communicating their position, coordinating on this issue. And, if they can't coordinate and communicate on this issue and how