

of the institutions involved in this study will be represented in an advisory capacity, and I would urge support of this amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, the role of the...the role of the institutions, the sectors in deciding policy of higher education is always a very touchy one. Our Postsecondary Coordinating Commission, for instance, is set up now in such a fashion that members...sector representatives sit as full voting members of the Postsecondary Coordinating Commission. I happened to visit, this afternoon, with a long-time public sector representative on that Coordinating Commission. He was explaining to me the frustrations of making effective coordinating decisions when the people that are making those are the ones whose turf they are there to protect. So it's a touchy issue. The way the bill was originally drafted the commission, itself, would consist of representatives from the various sectors. Considering what type of study we really wanted to take place, we offered an amendment on General File to change the makeup of that commission so that there would be no sector representation on it, that the people who are conducting it would have a degree of detachment from higher education, that they would not be protecting turf, they would be there genuinely seeking answers and recommending policy changes that would lead to a better system. The concern then became, from the sectors, that will they be excluded from the process? We pointed to them, no, there won't be. See, there is language here in the amendment that says that you may conduct...that they may appoint an advisory committee, and that is what the commission will be doing. Well what the Scofield amendment is doing is putting into statute that private assurance that is already given, so I'm very supportive of the Scofield amendment. Obviously, you cannot do a good study on higher education if you exclude any input from those people that have expertise in higher education from participating in the process. I would argue that you can't have a good independent study of higher education if those sectors are the ones that are driving the study. I think what we have in 247, as it currently exists, is a balance. Senator Scofield's amendment I don't think alters that balance, but it further refines and guarantees that that balance will be there, and I'm supportive of the Scofield amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lowell Johnson, please.