

Senator Withem, for this bill, for the priority bill, for the opportunity to bring a much needed change that has occurred over the last ten years, and that's the growth of Kearney into the university system. I think that the main thing we'll get out of this bill, out of this debate, and ultimately out of our decisions and our study is that we have some real advantages of being a small state, and those advantages are that we can work together from one end to the other and not have those regional conflicts, and that we're very proud of our flag ship, the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. We're very proud of our medical center at UN-O and other institutions that we have in the entire university system. Kearney is now another addition to that. I would ask the body to adopt and move this bill along for Final Reading, and then we can begin the real struggle and the real study, and that's what we're going to do with higher education in the future. And, Senator Withem, thank you very much for the opportunity to share some of your closing time. If you have anything else, I'll give it back to you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: The only thing I would conclude by this is an important issue and I would ask for a call of the house prior to taking the vote.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Shall the house go under call? All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record.

CLERK: 21 ayes, 1 nay to go under call, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The house is under call. Members, please record your presence. Senator Haberman, the house is under call. While waiting, the Chair is pleased to announce that Senator Schellpeper has some guests in the north balcony, 33 seventh graders from Guardian Angel's School in West Point, Nebraska and their teacher. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Thank you, we're glad that you could be with us this afternoon. Senator Haberman, the house is under call. All present and accounted for, and the question is the advancement of LB 247 to E & R Engrossing. Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Senator Wesely has requested a record vote. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: (Read record vote as found on page 1808 of the Legislative Journal.) 29 ayes, 12 nay, Mr. President, on the