

went to a different program so it won't count against us on maintenance of effort. For a couple of reasons, I think this section should come out of the bill. Reason number one is that it is a...I don't think it's a terribly up front thing to do. We all, last year when we appropriated the dollars into the SSIG program, we...that's where we were appropriating them. We were appropriating them into program 299. We knew what that was. We did it with full knowledge and intent of what we were doing. I see no reason to come back in and correct that record. Secondly, if you do this and pass 812 with this amendment in it, you're really paving the way to create a new state government program that, again, will be favorable to those students attending public institutions as opposed to those attending private institutions. That is what I have learned about this amendment since the last time we discussed it. I think it is the proper approach to take. I will be happy to respond to any questions you may have. I know Senator...I am assuming Senator Warner will participate in this discussion and, hopefully, at the conclusion of the discussion we will at least all understand the issues and understand exactly what it is we are voting on. I would urge you to support my amendment to LB 812.

SPEAKER BARRETT PRESIDING

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. For discussion purposes, the Chair recognizes Senator Warner, followed by Senator Hall.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, as Senator Withem has pointed out, a portion of the purpose of the amendment was probably explained but I think he is making an assumption beyond which would be the intent or, for that matter, the effect of the amendment as is proposed. What is true, as we all know, last year there was an appropriation made based...an additional appropriation made that was based, I think, on the assumption of most of us, at least, that the funds would be distributed as they had traditionally been distributed. Whether or not that same level of appropriation would have been made with the change that has occurred, I do not know, I don't suppose anyone knows. But, nevertheless, it is accurate, I believe, to state that at the time the appropriation was made traditional distribution would be anticipated. There are three other states, I believe, according to the statistical data that do...have distributed, do distribute funds as Nebraska has. South Dakota, New Hampshire and Tennessee use a Pell Grant as a basis but the sole purpose for putting the money into two