

colleges and universities where 54 percent of those students came from a family of under 20,000 but 18 percent had over 30,000. Figuring in the need factors into this, if you define need as how much it costs to go to a particular institution, then that is, obviously, going to skew where the distribution of these funds go. My preference is to send, to help as many students as possible in this state and to certainly help the students who need the help most and I think we need to be very cautious as we make these decisions because you could unwittingly I think end up making a shift that none of us, and I suspect Senator Withem would not with his history of support for public education, while he is probably as willing as I am to do something for private institutions I would guess that his priority is public education.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: And we will make those decisions under LB 468 and LB 651, one or the other, but I want to maintain a maximum flexibility here to make sure the money goes to that poorest group of students. So the issue, Senator Hall, isn't, in fact, do we follow the statutes or change them? The issue is who do you want to emphasize and do you really want to help the poorest students? As I said, those policy choices will actually be made in either LB 651 or LB 468, and the decision being made here is whether you're going to strike that maintenance of...what are you going to do with that maintenance effort language? Are you going to tie your hands as a legislator then to make choices about where you want to direct the funds? So I would urge you to recognize that the use of the term program in here is, in fact, an accounting convention that gives directions to DAS, gives us maximum flexibility as a body then to decide where you want to put it. If you want to put the majority of the funds to private institutions, you have that option on whatever bill we deal on. I will not do that. I will choose to try to strike some kind of equitable balance between private and public institutions and so...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: ...I would urge you to reject the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Withem, followed by Senator Schmit.