

you choose to follow my lead. The...last year we appropriated 750,000 additional dollars into the SSIG program. That was distributed on the Pell Grant formula basis that, frankly, tends to favor public institutions over private. An AG's Opinion came in saying you can't do that, you've got to change. You've got to figure in cost of institutions. That tends to favor private institutions. The Appropriations Committee then in LB 812 is recommending that we go back and we take the money that we appropriated last year and we redefine it in a bookkeeping sense so it doesn't count against our maintenance of effort. If you think that is the wrong policy, if you think the policy of distributing the dollars to institutions with the cost of...with a factor of the cost of insti...of attending in the formula, then you ought to vote to take this language out of the appropriations bill. If, on the other hand, you like the old way of doing it, if you like the formula that tends to favor students attending public institutions, then you ought to leave this language in the bill. True, we'll have another chance. This is only round two of this...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR WITHEM: ...discussion. We have at least one more round and maybe a second round after this one to debate the thing. That's what I'm asking you to do, strike Section 11 of this bill which paves the way to allow us to change the way in which we distribute SSIG programs or maintain the current incorrect way of distributing it in a manner in which supports students attending public institutions. With that, I would, again, thank Senator Schmit for the use of the time.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, it's been said several times and, Senator Schmit, in response to your question, you also indicated someone had told you that you could not fund a program, as I understood, that does not exist in the budget bill and, again, if I can repeat what several have already said, all we're talking about is an accounting program and how the funds are appropriated and with two funding, accounting programs there is still only one distribution law now and that is the basis on which the distribution would be made. And the only argument, as far as I'm concerned, the only argument that we're talking about here is on overmatch on those funds that the Legislature chooses to appropriate over and above