

the most important. And it reads that "The state can enhance its economic and social potential when the state's residents have the opportunity to contribute to the full extent of their capabilities for the removal of the financial barriers to their economic, social and educational goals. The state can enhance its educational objectives by the development of financial aid programs, including programs which enable the state to fully qualify for federal student aid programs made available to the state through the federal SSIG program under authority of..." blah, blah, blah. "To avoid the application of a double standard in carrying out its educational programs, the state needs to make certain that all students who qualify for aid stand equal to each other before the law and that they be given the freedom within reasonable and constitutional limits to select the institutions of their choice in which to pursue their educational goals." And then we go on to say the section and the purpose and we say, "to establish a financial systems program to enable eligible undergraduate Nebraska residents." We're not talking about foreigners. We're not talking about somebody who comes from the moon. We're talking about kids and students that live in Nebraska. They populate these private or these independent schools. Just because they don't happen to choose a state-supported school, should they be denied the opportunity to apply for these funds? I don't think so. Just because they're funds that aren't matched by federal dollars? We had arguments in here that we couldn't change our laws because of possible loss of federal funding for our highway programs. I remember those arguments. I was on the wrong side then also. We made those same arguments that that's when we had to agree with what the federal government said. We couldn't, for any reason, vary from that stance because we had to rely on those federal monies. Well, this is a program that applies to students. It applies to students who have financial needs, whether they be in independents, in privates or in State of Nebraska supported schools. We set this up in 1978, the Postsecondary Education Commission has never abided by it. They have ignored the statutes. They put in place a funding mechanism that has ignored what the Legislature in 1978 said should be done. And what we're saying here is that we're going to put an accounting function into place. What we're putting up is a separate fund. We're putting in a separate fund that says we're going to take this slice of the pie and we're going to give it to these people, and we'll take this slice and we'll match so we get the federal monies and we'll meet the federal requirements over here but not for the rest of this money.