

That's clearly all we are doing. It's that simple. It's not complicated. It's real easy to understand. Appropriations jargon or not, it's not that difficult. All you have to do is be able to think a little bit and you understand it's a way to circumvent the process that hasn't even been used today. Although it's in statute, it's never been used, the formula, because they have just ignored it and they have done it the traditional way. Ladies and gentlemen, that's not the way to do it. These funds are taxpayer monies that are paid by taxpayers that live in the state and they send their kids to schools whether they be independent, whether they be private, whether they be state supported. They should have the ability, based on financial need, by meeting the criteria that's laid out there to apply for these scholarships. It ought to go across the board. They have to meet criteria as well. It's not some willy-nilly program that you just dish out to whomever.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: It is a proposal that would take us away, without adopting Senator Withem's amendment, from what we have traditionally done, what we have traditionally had in statute since 1978. You can create tradition in 11 short years. The fact of the matter is we have ignored it. We need to say that these students, these Nebraska students, whether they be in a private school or not, be just as eligible to apply for these funds, have the opportunity as anybody in a public school setting. I would urge you to adopt Senator Withem's amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Rod Johnson, followed by Senator Lynch.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members, first of all let me say I support the Withem amendment. Secondly, since I can't do a better job than what Senator Hall has done, I will just relinquish my time to Senator Lynch.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Yes, Mr. President and members, I was curious about when Senator Scofield mentioned a major shift, how much we were talking about. I had the chance this morning to talk to somebody from the university, a young man who told me there was a \$1,800,000 involved in this fund. And using those numbers