

individual members appropriating the budget. And I think that is a bad process, just one more time pointing out our needs to change the way in which we fund the university, our needs to change the way in which the university system is structured, particularly their budgetary concerns. With that, I'll probably support Senator Bernard-Stevens amendment, but I don't really think we should be, the Legislature should be in a position of having to either fund this program or not fund this program. We created this program, we gave a mandate and I'm a little concerned and upset that the university has not found a way, in their huge budget, to comply with the request that the Legislature has given to them.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Korshoj, followed by Senator...Question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Please record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate ceases. Senator Bernard-Stevens, would you care to close?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senator Withem is absolutely on target when he says the process is something that desperately needs to be looked at. There is something wrong when you have a mandate by the Legislature, an entity says that, well...and the money is appropriated and an entity says, well, we're not going to find money in our allocation funds; in order to fund that, you'll have to give us more money from elsewhere, and if we're not careful, we can take one step further and say, yes, we're going to show the university that they are going to have to find that money. What I'd like to refocus the attention to is there are a lot of little people out in the State of Nebraska, and they don't have a lot of big power and they don't have a lot of big voices. They're afraid to come, sometimes, to the Legislature and even ask for money because they don't want to ask for anything, they want to do it themselves, and here you have the University of Nebraska, doesn't seem to find any money. Of course, they are a statewide university, gosh knows they are statewide, they want to help western Nebraska, too, but doggone it, we just can't find \$50,000 in how many millions that we give to the university. If we're not careful, we'll let the bad system, which we'll be studying in LB 247, dictate what happens here.