

you did, it's my concern that again I would not want to see this dumped not only in just two or three projects but even in just one which I suppose is a possibility. And I think this particular intent language is important to encourage the department to spread this as much as possible, as reasonable across the state and there is that flexibility factor in there, given the way it is worded, that I don't think it unnecessarily ties their hands and yet it sends a very clear message about what the Legislature's intent is about how these funds would be used. So I would ask you not to accept the amendment and will move on from there. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, as I indicated in my offer...in my opening, I didn't have a lack of understanding of the Appropriations Committee's reasons for doing what they did but I would suggest that perhaps the fear that's expressed by this direction is not really a real fear. As I indicated over the last three years, six training projects, six, two per year on an average, exceeded the \$100,000 limit by some amount. And these did occur outstate from Beatrice to Madison to Oshkosh, Columbus, Hastings, states that are...cities that are experiencing growth at this time and had a need for the program. I think that when we create programs if we're going to say that this is a good program, then our responsibility should be to make sure that the personnel are available to conduct the programs and give them the discretionary authority to adjust within the funds available what might be of most benefit to the State of Nebraska. The six programs that I alluded to created a total...or the industries that the programs were provided for created a total of a 1,044 jobs which is nothing insignificant when you consider that they both took...they all took place in areas that might be considered outstate Nebraska. I don't know that business will change...the business of job training will change altogether that much whether this amendment is adopted or, in fact, whether it is defeated but I do think with the addition of this amendment that those people that are in the business, in the business of providing the job training opportunities for job creation in the State of Nebraska will be given the necessary flexibility to accomplish their goals. So, again, I understand the reasons for the policy statement. I simply disagree with them and I think that they will not be in the best interest of the State of Nebraska if we are, as Senator Scofield alluded to, going to be placed in the position of