

think this deals more with providing for a more long-term solution to the problems of funding, especially in the Western Community College area, and I think that the thing to emphasize is that this does put the money where it is needed, and it puts it out into the Western College area or into the Mid-Plains area. Those are the two areas that are struggling right now. That is where this money would be targeted for. With that, I would try to answer any questions people have. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, Senator Baack. Discussion on the amendment. Senator Moore, followed by Senators Nelson and Dierks.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, and members, LB 143 is...LB 143 now with the amendment is really LB 845, and that is what I want to talk about is LB 845 that Senator Baack is amending in here. You know, I certainly do not disagree with the intent of what Senator Baack is trying to do, but, quite honestly, I have some concerns and, basically, my concerns are does the ends justify the means because, yes, we have known probably since we created this whole system of tech colleges, we have known that Western is a poor area that we have trouble getting money to. Now what Senator Baack and the technical community colleges, as a whole, have brought to us is a formula that I guess troubles me a little bit and the part that troubles me, and Senator Baack alluded to it in his opening, is they use a systemwide levy as your trigger mechanism for the equalization formula, and I guess my question to Senator Baack is, I think you broached the subject in your opening, but is there something else, for instance, like a valuation per student, something that is fixed, as opposed to something that is floating like a systemwide levy? Is there some sort of fixed, known subject matter that we could base an equalization formula on as opposed to this systemwide levy which is, indeed, floating from ear to ear, and my main concern is you kind of have the fox guarding the chicken coop, so to speak, because the more you spend, the higher the levy is, the more you change things. I guess I have a problem with that, and in thirty seconds or less, can you tell me why you could not go to some valuation per resident, valuation per student, and I am assuming that that formula does not get the money where it needs to go, I guess I can answer my own question, but tell me why, have you looked into that and why that won't work?

SENATOR BAACK: Yes, Senator Moore, we did consider I think a