

SENATOR MOORE: Okay, and is there anyone else close to qualifying?

SENATOR BAACK: I don't believe so, no.

SENATOR MOORE: Okay, well, I just raise these concerns because I am concerned about putting an equalization formula in statute, which I think is kind of nonsensical, but as I understand the target and the reason is to get money to an area of the state that is indeed poor, and I guess now that I've voiced my concerns, I guess I will just...that is all I have to say on the matter.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Nelson, please.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, and members of the body, I am in support of Senator Baack and also on LB 845. I think I can also answer Senator Moore. I don't think that that necessarily, hopefully will involve my area or maybe in eastern Nebraska, but I look at this as somewhat the statement that Senator Scofield made on the floor in regards to the Commonwealth bill. Sometimes there are things that we need to do and keep in mind the whole State of Nebraska. I certainly know when we heard yesterday in I think LB 1050, Senator Wehling's bill that he is going to carry, Western College is just in dire straits for funding and to me those people out there need the support of a community college as much as any of the rest of us, or even more so, because of sometimes the lack of their opportunities. I also am in support of the one million dollar cap so that we are not open-ended, and I know that there is a lot of support and as the LB 247 study may show for funding the community colleges in some other manner. But even though the rest of us may not see any advantage and, in fact, actually giving up some of the funding, I do hope that you do support the bill because I truly feel that Western College because, one thing, because of the pending Banner County, the lawsuit, and also there are just not that many people out there, and yet they also need the services of the college. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The Chair is pleased to take a moment to recognize some guests of Senators Moore and Johnson under the south balcony. We have visiting this morning Mr. Bob Ehlers from York and Mr. Ed Ediger from Hampton. Would you gentlemen please stand and be recognized. Thank you. We are glad to have you with us. Further discussion on the Baack