

and coordinate higher education, this, to me, seems to be an essential aspect that we need to guarantee as far as the authority of the Board of Regents. If we don't, we're going to have the continuing battles here on the floor of the Legislature for particularly...for special legislation or special funding requests from each of the seven institutions. And I think that this amendment is an integral part of the whole theory of the process. I think that it would simplify the process. It would really enable the Board of Regents to have more authority and control over this process and would be from a management and structural point of view a worthy amendment. One of the things that I have always been concerned about in the five years that I have been here in the Legislature is the apparent parochialism that sometimes manifests itself when we consider funding requests for particular institutions, educational institutions in our state. And I have even heard Board of Regents candidates who have actually run on an issue saying that their particular regent in their district was not doing enough for that district or for the particular educational institution in that district. It seems to me if we're going to coordinate higher education, we need to look at the broader perspective and look at not just what is good for a particular regent district or what is particularly good for a particular legislative district, we need to look at how are these decisions regarding higher education going to benefit the entire state? And it seems to me the way to do that is to vest in the Board of Regents the authority over the funding requests and also the authority under the distribution of the funds to the various institutions. And, for that reason, I am offering this amendment. I think it is a good amendment, one that should be considered by the body, an important amendment and I hope that you would approve it as an amendment to the Standing Committee amendments. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, I rise to challenge the germaneness of this amendment as it being offered as an amendment to the committee amendments. The committee amendments do not deal at all with the question of appropriations. I have no argument that this is an appropriate amendment to offer, notice I say to offer it. It is not an appropriate amendment to adopt, I might add, but it is an appropriate amendment to offer to the bill itself but it ought not be offered as an amendment to the committee amendments. And I will probably be making that same point with amendments two and three, together they could be