

can enforce the role and mission statutes adequately, except after the fact in the Legislature, and we even have difficulty with it, then you ought to stand on the floor and defend the status quo as the best possible system that we have in this country, and say that proudly. On the other hand, if you think that the solution...that the situation needs changes, you need to come forward with solid suggestions to improve this legislation. If in analysis you think that the current system is better than what is in this legislation, you ought to support it. If you think as I do, and as I think Senator Moore does and other people do, that have spent lots of time with this issue, that the system is in need of very significant change, then you ought to support this. There is widespread support for this proposal, contrary to what Senator McFarland says. There aren't a bunch of sniveling people out in the state, afraid to speak out for fear of what retributions will come forward on them. State College Board of Trustees unanimously supports this resolution. Community colleges support this resolution. Independent colleges support this resolution. Individuals within the University of Nebraska system have come forward on their own and indicated that as individuals they're supportive of it.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR WITHEM: Who opposes this resolution? There is one group in this state that oppose this resolution, that's the University of Nebraska regents. Another group that maybe hasn't officially come out against it, but where the center of opposition to this proposal is coming, is the Lincoln campus, here in Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Lincoln campus. Why are they opposing it? I don't think it's because they have the best interest of higher education in the State of Nebraska at heart, they are concerned about their particular position being impacted and their abilities to control the situation vanishing. Nobody likes to give up power. I'm amazed, frankly, that the board of trustees of the state colleges, who were abolished by this proposal, are supportive of it. That's a group that is able to rise above the parochial concerns of their institutions and take a solid look at what needs to be done to prove higher education in this state. We, as the Legislature, need to do the same thing. This issue has been with us forever. How do we do a better job of impacting on higher education in this state? Every proposal I've ever seen brought forward, with the help of the University of Nebraska board of regents and the