

Lincoln campus, have always been able to find little nit-picky problems with it that we're never able to move forward on it.

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR WITHEM: This is one that does have broad spread support, and I would urge you to support it.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schimek, please.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Mr. President and members of the body, it isn't often times that I find myself in disagreement with Senator Withem, and it's really kind of hard to be in disagreement with Senator Withem on this one. And I've tried, I've tried really hard from the very beginning on this issue to keep an open mind on it and to look at all aspects of it and try to like this plan. And I think I have...I've tried to do that, and yet I come back to my first instinct over and over again on this particular bill. It has nothing to being...to being from Lincoln, it has nothing to do with that. It's just...I think that this system could create a political nightmare for us. And I have to second what Senator Crosby said, I think that it's going to become...it could lead to more parochialism. I have some concerns about some of the smaller schools who may have to depend upon the recommendations of the board of regents for their budget recommendations. And, frankly, I think it's going to be very difficult for the board of regents to make those kind of budgetary decisions for all of the community colleges, the state colleges and universities. And that concerns me. It's also interesting, I think, and I guess I have to make a note of this, that Senator Lamb and I don't often stand up on the same side of the issue. But I think we're pretty convinced on this one. And I guess I would like to see and hear more from those senators who do oppose this particular plan who are not from Lincoln because what we've seen so far on this issue is a plethora of comments from Lincoln senators and very few from others. I know that there are others who have some concerns about this. I had passed out to you the plan from Oklahoma, study of the Oklahoma higher education system, and I'm not...I didn't hand this out to say that this is the perfect study or anything. I just passed it out so that you would note that Oklahoma has had a system where they've had 17 separate boards for their two-year, four-year institutions and universities. And they've had this system for quite a while, and they have just come to the conclusion that it doesn't work anymore for