

federal/state student incentive grant dollars will be reduced by \$91,055 for the next fiscal year. And what this is putting in this year would be a total of \$250,000. Like all amendments, it's straight up, it just adds money to existing programs, with the same distribution that we have. And I think, with that, I will close and see who else would like to speak on it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Moore, please, followed by Senator Warner.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, Mr. President, if I can almost rise and would almost be in a neutral capacity, I will do so, but to basically give some information. You remember, the body remembers last year there was a great deal of confusion and concern among two differing factions, primarily the private faction and the public sector institutions as to what should be done with the formula in distributing tuition assistance. That was nothing new, that had been an ongoing in this body for a number of years. Last year, with the passage of the bill whose number escapes me here this afternoon, we basically came to a consensus that...we're going to have two funds, one favoring private, one favoring public, and whatever we do from henceforth and forever more we're going to fund those funds in an equal amount. And I will give Senator Korshoj credit for holding to that word and then finally his...of his amendment. It basically treats both sectors the same. Now the concern that I have had, and I always have had, is that Nebraska ranks, you know, very, very low nationally in what we do for the students, period...particularly in the area of tuition assistance. For that reason, you know, I like putting money in there. But I guess the one thing I want to point out is that it was my hope last year, when we finally, hopefully, at least, put to bed that ongoing split and division between the private and public sectors on how the formula should work, we could move ahead with the funding. And I hope that if for some reason if this amendment is not advanced today, I hope that next year, when we come back, we certainly keep or hold true to our word of last year, and that we're going to finally put down the arms and unite in giving money to students, in both the public and private sectors, but primarily giving money to students who truly need tuition assistance. And so that is the little bit of the neutral testimony on my behalf on this measure. Whether or not we can afford this is another thing, and that is something only the body can decide.