

of the opinion that to do so might, in some degree, diminish what is available for public education. Feeling as we do, that the majority of young people who will have to attend school in this state will have to go to a public educational institution, but when we have programs such as these that are already established and the statute requires that any money appropriated must go substantially to each of them in the same amounts, then one is not going to get a leg up on the other. However, there are various programs that might help students at public education institutions that may not be available to those who would choose to go elsewhere. Senator Korshoj is offering a very modest amount. It might be described as a dribble-drabble. But perhaps we ought to dribble-drabble something into these funds every year that we appropriate something in order to try to build up the amount since there is not going to come a day, in the foreseeable future, when we will make a very large, substantial appropriation. So I'm in favor of Senator Korshoj's amendment. I don't think it will bust the budget. And, if we can't find a way to give this very small amount to programs such as this, it will be difficult to argue at another time that we favor assisting those who really need help in attending schools. I've had a reason to look at the language that created these programs, the legislative findings, the legislative intent, and all of that goes to the idea of making education accessible to all of the citizens of this state who would desire to go. At the same time, though, there is a frank recognition of the fact that many people, because of financial difficulties, will not be able to take advantage of educational opportunities which are available, thus the creation of these two programs. In order to carry out those legislative findings and that legislative intent, this amendment of Senator Korshoj's is a small step in that direction. So I hope that we will adopt his amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Nelson, please.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I probably will support this. It's a small amount for, hopefully, needy students and so on. But I want the body to be aware, and I don't think I'm mistaken on this, on the federal level this is one of the programs that is being considered phased out. So I do want you to be aware of that.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Korshoj, would you like to close on your amendment, please.