

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I understand wood against wood. Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, this is an amendment that is not going to cost the state any money whatsoever, it's only intent language. And if you turn to page 1325 of the Journal, you will see it. But I'm going to read it into the record. But I will tell you what it attaches to. Yesterday we added \$125,000 to each of two student aid programs, one the Scholarship Assistance Program, the other the State Scholarship Award Program. Both are need based. If you cannot establish substantial financial aid, you cannot qualify for the programs. So I think there is no category of student having established this need who ought to be denied this aid as a condition to participating in intercollegiate athletics. So what my amendment says is the following. "In the distribution of any funds appropriated under this section to Program No. 300, Scholarship Assistance Program and Program No. 301, State Scholarship Award Program, there shall be no discrimination against any student in the awarding or withholding of aid based on participation or nonparticipation in any intercollegiate athletic program or activity." Both of those programs contain findings by the Legislature and intent language. The most recent bill passed pertaining to these programs was last year, 1989, and the bill number was LB 651. It passed without a dissenting vote, 48 to 0, and that bill contains those findings which indicate that these two programs are designed to give access to higher education to all of the citizens of this state, that those who, because of financial difficulties, may not be able to go to school will be enabled or assisted by virtue of these two programs, such being the underlying basis for the programs, in other words, demonstrated financial need. I think there should be no allowance for any discrimination. So I'm asking that this intent language be added.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion? Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, my comments and perhaps Senator Chambers will want to react to them if he chooses to do so. But I would only point out first that Senator Chambers indicated this was to be interpreted as legislative intent and that certainly is done from time to time during an appropriation bill and I assume it is not meant to be substantive statutory language on that basis. Whether or not...if this is put into the appropriation bill and it is...funds, of course, are appropriated to the Coordinating Commission that subsequently do the distribution which is