

State did include it in their request. In fact, as I recall, state colleges I think had all vetoes together with some other requests included in their budget submission but that is aside from the issue at the moment. I think one thing that probably should be said, looking back to some of the discussion last year when the issue first came up, the natural thing to do was to look to the funding mechanism through the community colleges as opposed to through the state colleges, and that avenue was explored to some extent last year but eventually was not pursued. I did not recall, until Senator Schimek mentioned, that they had worked out some agreement now apparently with Northeast, which was certainly an avenue that was encouraged to have happen. What I did want to comment, however, is that the reason for this particular position last year was not related so much to the fact that whether they were Native American or non-Native American students at the campus, although that was a part of the basis for our rationale for something, but the emphasis for this particular position related to the fact that many of the courses at the college are academic in nature, and there was a fairly high number of the Native Americans students who didn't then go on to a four-year institution. This particular counseling type of position seemed to make a great deal of sense to assist in those students who were likely to go on to a four-year institution, at least many of them intended to, to facilitate and make those transfers as convenient and least obstacles as possible, and that was the basis for the inclusion last year. It would be, I think, an appropriate reason for the considering of it again now.

SENATOR LAMB: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, and members of the Legislature, in the interest of trying to conserve time, my remarks will be brief, not because the issue isn't serious or that I don't support it strongly, but I have not heard any true opposition to the idea. I think what the Appropriations Committee might be trying to see is whether or not the Legislature, as a body, wants to take this policy decision by reinstating this money that was vetoed out last year. I cannot say better than the way Senator Korshoj said it the reasons why this appropriation is valid. So I want it clear on the record that I support the appropriation and I hope that we will get the 25 votes to add it to the bill.

SENATOR LAMB: The Chair recognizes Senator Korshoj. That,