

the current coordinating commission as not having any authority and is criticized or the lack of coordination is sometimes directed at them, that is a constitutional question because there is no way we could delegate that authority to the current coordinating commission in such a way that they would have any authority to exercise it. It is advisory in nature. Constitutionally can be nothing other than that. Either propose a constitutional amendment...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time.

SENATOR WARNER: ...so that coordination then does become effective but it will be through the Board of Regents to the public institutions. This Higher Ed Commission retains a portion of the responsibilities of the current coordinating commission and that portion is where the diverse public, nonpublic or independent proprietary institutions can, in fact, get together and talk about common issues, common,...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Your time has expired.

SENATOR WARNER: ...you know, common concerns to do some planning as a group but it would always be voluntary in their roles.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, I would like to address the Coordsen amendment and maybe give my two cents worth, if it is worth that much, on Senator Schimek's question. I probably am not going to support the Coordsen amendment, more out of not being sure than out of any outright opposition. And let me just lay out for you the dilemma going through my mind on whether it is a good amendment or a poor amendment. I think if you take the ability to select the representatives away from the sectors and put it in the hands of the Governor, you may not make any difference. It may make a subtle difference, it may make a big difference, but the changes that I see potentially happening on a positive nature is, number one, it will strengthen the Governor's hand. Those people that will be serving, not because a board appointed them, but because the Governor chose them, and keep in mind one of the major changes, Senator Schimek, and others, on this commission versus the current coordinating commission is we are bringing together all policymakers in the higher ed arena to serve together on this, and the