

and then they are a part of the system. But any other time, we treat them like the bastard child, and they have no father on the birth certificate as far as we are concerned. We don't want to recognize them. We don't want to recognize the fact that they are being educated in this state, that there are savings for those school boards. I have time and time again said let's close them all down if we don't want to recognize them to the tune of 150, 165 thousand dollars in a textbook loan program, approximately the same amount in a tuition tax deduction, 300,000, maybe five in a single year, a million dollars over a budget biennium. We don't want to recognize them to that extent...

SENATOR LABEDZ: One minute, Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: ...even though they save hundreds of times that amount of money in terms of what they do. It is simply the recognition factor, not the benefit that is derived. The benefit derived is a very small portion of what we do in this amendment as we did in the textbook loan program, and that was 18 years of trials and tribulations through the court system to get that recognition passed. All we do in LB 346 is recognize that these people are part of the system. I referenced the higher education study when we dealt with this on General File, and how we had to bring in every aspect of that from community colleges all the way through the university system. Now recognize fully what we do in elementary and secondary education with our private institutions, because, ladies and gentlemen, this is not just a private bill. It is for public school parents who have expenses as well. I would urge the adoption of the Hefner amendment.

SENATOR LABEDZ: We are voting on the amendment to Senator Hefner's amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted?

SENATOR HALL: May I have a call of the house and a roll call vote.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Yes, you may, Senator Hall. All those in favor of the house going under call vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 nays, 1 nay to go under call, Madam President.