

equitably spent, that people have access to programs, and that no one institution has more than its fair share, or less than its fair share. Now I realize that passing this is never going to lay to rest that perception. We're all always going to think that somebody gets more than we do. That sort of seems to be the nature of human beings. But I think this takes a big step forward in terms of us being able to go to the public and justifying what is spent on higher ed, justifying what kinds of attempts we've made to provide access, and it also gives us a tool, I think, to handle what I think are some very tight times coming in terms of other needs that are going to compete for that same limited pool of financial resources that are out there. And I offer these comments, I guess frankly, for the benefit of some folks who see this as a lose proposition for them and their institution rather than a winning proposition. And I would suggest that if we work together and we try to meet our goals of equity and access across the state that no institution has to be the loser here; that in fact this can enhance the offerings at every institution, and it gives us all something that we can assure the taxpayers that we've done a good job of maintaining a quality system, and that we can account for where the money goes, and that there is access statewide to programs without trying to build...competing and duplicating programs everywhere. And I see an awful lot of that right now going on simply because of the way the process works right now. So if you're one of those senators that is sitting back worrying about this and wondering if this is the right thing to do for your institution, I genuinely believe it is. And I genuinely believe this is in the best interest of all of higher education in the state. And I hope that we can advance this and put it on the ballot, and then each of us participate in a meaningful way in explaining this to the public so that when the time comes, in November, for the public to vote on this that they know why we did it, and what benefits they're going to see out of it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Moore, please.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, Mr. President and members. Before you advance the bill I just wanted to broach two subjects that keep popping up around back behind the cloak room and things like this when it comes to LR 239. You know, one of those things is that LR 239 is Ron and Jerry's revenge on the university. I think that is a very unfair accusation from a lot of people. The second thing more than one person has mentioned to me,