

PRESIDENT: Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, and members of the body, I support the Conway amendment. A little of the history of the recommendation that came from Widmayer and Associates. Most members of the commission were very pleased with the recommendation they saw from Widmayer and Associates with one exception, and there was discomfort with the fact that the community colleges were, to a large degree, left out. The rationalization was, well, you don't have much choice because of the property tax provision in our Constitution, that you must either repeal the Duis amendment, which you couldn't do, or you must fund the state colleges entirely at the state level, which you can do but it is a very expensive proposition and one that would not meet with a lot of support. What the commission had opted for then was some type of voluntary coordination. I think what Senator Conway has for us here is something that frankly we had not considered and I think is a good, good idea, makes a good idea better. So I think it ought to be adopted and I commend Senator Conway for bringing the amendment, and appreciate his concerns and interest and urge the body to support the Conway amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Warner, or Senator Conway, would you like to close on your amendment, please.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Mr. President. Again, I'd like to say it is very clear. It is basically the concept we talked about the other day and during the discussion relative to procedures again it was discussed. I think that one of the concerns that some people had, now whether this adds votes to 239, I don't know. I think it does make 239, if, in fact, 239 is to be the future for the higher education in the State of Nebraska, what this does do is make sure that the community colleges are part of the coordination process. Again, it does not change their governance structure, per se. That will be left alone as LR 239 had intended, but it does bring them in under the coordinative aspect of that particular bill. So with that, I offer the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. The question is the adoption of the Conway amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 33 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator