

to try to get him a little bit of aid. That is no longer the case. We passed another bill which said that a scholarship cannot be taken from an athlete as a result of injury, and the university opposed it, just like you do, saying it would never be used. We passed it anyway, and about three years ago, do you know what the university did? It took two scholarships from two female gymnasts because of injury, and I had to go to the Attorney General to get his office involved, and after his involvement, the university was forced to do justice to those young ladies. One wanted to continue at the school so her scholarship was reinstated. It never should have been taken. The other wanted to transfer to another school, which she did with the blessing of the university, but people who say, like Senator Hefner, that this kind of legislation is not needed and the NCAA doesn't like it, we have to disregard that. We owe an obligation to every person who lives in this state, whether they are a citizen of Nebraska or not. The laws that we enact should apply to students, whether they happen to play in athletics or not. This bill, Senator Hefner, is going to simply make sure that the aid programs this Legislature has created will apply to all students and they will not be told you have to give up your aid to participate in this school function. You would never sit there and consent to the, if they have a Department of Architecture, saying that before you can go to this school of architecture, you have to give up any financial aid that you need to go to this school, or journalism. And the question I pose to you, and Senator Peterson hasn't taken as rock hard a position as yours, but I pose it to him and others who feel as you do, if you know that these players are needy because they have meet the criteria for need-based aid, and you tell them they cannot get it, the only way they are able to survive...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...is to take assistance under the table in violation of NCAA rules. If you want to say that this aid which the state made available to poor students cannot be given to them, how do you think these players get shoes and clothing and enough to eat, when their family cannot provide it? If their family could provide it, they wouldn't qualify for the aid under our programs. How do they get these things? They violate NCAA rules. So if you want to hurt the university, just tell the NCAA investigators to follow those poor students who have had to give up their aid to play in these programs and they will find NCAA rules violations because they have got to violate the rules