

with those problems. Five years from now it may be something that deals in the area of the environment, as Senator Smith rightly pointed out. Probably we haven't done enough there. We need to have this pool of money available to deal with that, I think, down the road. I don't want to foreclose the opportunity to have these funds available on a year to year basis to deal with problems as they arise, that we don't have the money in the General Fund to deal with. I do not want to see it put into General Fund. I don't think we should, basically, bank on that same amount of money coming in year after year. I don't also think that all the money should go to education, but if the case can be made on a yearly basis or on a year to year basis for a specific program that this 50 percent in the Legislative Assistance Funds should go into education in some form or fashion, then we have that ability as well. We don't foreclose that by any stretch. I think that it is an amendment that gives everybody a little bit of what they came to the table for, and continues to allow the Legislature to have the ability to assess fiscal problems as they arise on a year to year basis, but yet also says that we want to see a portion of this money earmarked toward specific educational programming. I can live with that. I would hope that you could and would support the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Wesely, on the amendment.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. Just very briefly, I rise in support of the amendment. I think Senator Hall exactly hits it on target, that we ought to place priority on education uses for lottery funds, but that we also ought to leave our options open as to other uses. I think it is all kind of informational and educational to listen to the debate. We had Senator Lynch talk about the CHIP program, and the need there for funding. Senator Smith talked about CASA, Community Aging Services Act, and need for funding there, both bills that I was involved with in their passage, and other legislation, other programs out there needing funding. I think the interesting thing about the lottery issue is how it is a new source of funding, a new availability of resources to this state and this Legislature, and how there are countless programs and purposes that are very worthy and important out there that have never been funded as they should be, never been able to achieve the goals that we envisioned for them, still doing good things for the State of Nebraska. But I think it, again, talks to the