

the...Oh, excuse me. Mr. Clerk, an amendment to the bill.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Warner would move to amend the bill. (Read Warner amendment as found on page 2036 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this section of the bill is a finding by the Legislature, and I can appreciate the generic position of that language. But I object to the current state policy, as it states that those students who attend a nonpublic college or university will result in a more positive and successful educational experience for students. I don't disagree with the fact people should have a choice. But it seems to me a little farfetched to declare state policy that this will be a more beneficial experience than public education. And that's the nature of the amendment. Doesn't affect the bill, simply strikes that language. Included in the section is the language that it would reduce the burden on Nebraska taxpayers. That's an argument that is used from time to time, may or may not be accurate in any given situation. The potential is certainly there, I suppose. But I don't know that we should, in effect, suggest that the public institutions are not of equal importance, and that would appear to me is what that language implies. So I move to strike that language.

PRESIDENT MOUL PRESIDING

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Warner. I'll now recognize senators wishing to speak to this amendment. Senator Smith. Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Yes, Madam, I have almost the same reservation, and I do concur with Senator Warner. And I also am very much aware that the private institutions have not had the funding, and that Nebraska is very low and so on. But when we also...and I do want to mention that when we talk about grants and student aid and so on and so forth, we get down to that very important term, unmet needs. And naturally, if you're going to a school that is \$11,000 a year, or \$10,000 a year, as compared to a school of \$4,000 a year, the unmet needs are much greater. So I do want you to watch that. But I have the same concern as a result of the lack of financial incentives. This starts with line 17. Many students are choosing a college or university