

areas of this field in order to further go out and provide assistance in upgrading our health care in rural Nebraska. So with that explanation, and bear in mind, this is Cash Fund, it is not an affect on the General Fund of the State of Nebraska. I would encourage the adoption of this amendment. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. I will now recognize Senator Warner, followed by Senator Moore. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Madam President and members of the Legislature, the original amendment that Senator Coordsen had filed I had some problem with it. Conceptually, this changes it somewhat, but he made reference to the fact that we authorized two or three years ago the utilization of these funds for certain educational training for employees, particularly perhaps for new. The problem I am wondering about, this is earmarking money. As I understand, the statute that we enacted two or three years ago permitted or established, first, a committee which looks at these kinds of grant applications, and as I understand the existing law, that committee could possibly approve this expenditure, and I think it is somewhat of a departure, at least, from the concept of going in and earmarking funds for a specific activity that perhaps could more appropriately, it would seem to me, be allocated by the committee that was authorized in 79-2664 to do the same thing. And I raise the issue as to whether it is appropriate to expand the use of this fund for a purpose that I quickly agree is educational, but it does depart from the original concept, and I suppose I would ask Senator Coordsen at some point to address why this couldn't be done as the bill was drafted utilizing the committee that has the authority to distribute these funds in any event. It would seem to me that would be a more, as a policy matter, at least, that would be a more appropriate route to go, than again to earmark these training funds as proposed by the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Madam President, I rise to oppose Senator Coordsen's amendment. To continue what Senator Warner kind of mentioned there, you know, Senator Chizek, you were right a couple of years ago, that once you start dipping into this contingency fund, the sky is the limit. And though be it some