

that's going to enable us to be...provide the services that we need more when it comes to medical health, but also a big piece of economic development for the future. The community college, along with the university and others, this system all ties together and a small missing link that we have here is for our community college. I would just want to say again that the funds have been extremely helpful when it comes to training through the community colleges for businesses in our area, and that this would, again, just be equipment that would be used for training, especially in the areas of allied health. I would urge the body to support the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hillman. Senator Lynch. There is no one else speaking to speak on this issue. I would recognize Senator Coordsen for closing.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. I think the time to have been against raising the contingency fund was several years ago when we appropriated the \$1 million. I think the time to have been against it was perhaps when we appropriated the other fund to the community technical colleges, if it is not the proper use of those funds to be used in job training activities. I think a direct connection can be drawn between this particular use. It provides \$14,500 for microwave link. It doesn't get involved in the cost of all of the satellite technology. That is quite expensive. It piggybacks on existing facilities. I think it is an economical use of money. The training of the staff in order to use this in the instructional purposes for training people to work in rural health fields, changing jobs, whatever might be necessary, is in keeping with the current use that is being made from other appropriations out of this fund. I would suggest to you that, in this particular case, the well is just about dry. At the end of this biennium, it is highly likely that the contingency fund will be melt down to approximately \$700,000. I would remind you that the basic purpose of the contingency fund, what it was created for, was to provide for cash funding to operate the Department of Labor so that they would not be subjected to requesting General Fund tax monies for the operations of their programs. I think when my bill turns up next year to cap the contingency fund to provide for the turnover, that that is the time to stop the funding process. I think this is a good use of the money. It goes into a medical deficient area to encourage local people to enter the profession, to help people retrain in new professions, and I