

budget bill the intent language that we did establish on the floor the other day with Senator Moore. There was some confusion as a result of comments made by President Massengale that the fact that the budget bill contained some language to carry on off-campus instructions in Scottsbluff and in Grand Island constitutes an endorsement of education centers. My goal this legislative session in terms of the education centers was to remain...keep the Legislature in a neutral position on whether those should be established or whether they should not be established but allow the Coordinating Commission after it is up and running to make those decisions on whether they should be formalized. I supported and continue to support the Appropriations Committee funding for those programs because I'm convinced they need to be there to maintain the programs that currently exist. But I don't want people coming back two, three, four years from now or even in the argument in front of the Coordinating Commission and saying, see, the Legislature appropriated this money, it's obvious they're supportive of the concept of establishing the new administrative entity of the education centers. And that's the reason I joined with Senator Warner in co-sponsoring this amendment.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Moore, on the amendment.

**SENATOR MOORE:** I simply rise to support Senator Warner and Withem's amendment. I think it would accurately depict in intent language what was the intent of the Appropriations Committee because we were not necessarily...certainly, we're not committing to filling College Park, we were...this commitment is basically to continue the off-campus programs that Kearney is now offering. And, with that, I simply ask the body to support the amendment.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Nelson.

**SENATOR NELSON:** Madam Speaker, I have no problem with the amendment. I'm sure that Senator Warner and Senator Withem and I and this has been a long, long, hard, rough road for myself and I have no problems whatsoever in putting this...this intent language in the bill if they feel that it's necessary. This is somewhat of an appropriation bill but we had that same thing on the Whitehall yesterday, and if they're more comfortable in putting this in, I have no problem with it whatsoever. And I do appreciate their concern.