

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate Senator Rogers' and Senator Landis's support. Again, this is using Cash Funds for the insurance department. They have agreed to help lead the study. No General Funds involved. Would ask for your support for the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: You've heard the closing. We will now vote on the amendment offered by Senator Wesely. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Wesely and Landis's amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: The amendment is adopted. The next item, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senators Kristensen and Cudaback would move to amend. (The Kristensen-Cudaback amendment appears on page 2404 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members of the body, this amendment is one that underscores a problem we've had for a number of years and this problem is that at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Senator Cudaback and I have decided that we want to bring this problem to you. Perhaps our problem is we don't ask for enough and we should ask for a lot more but we don't do that. This amendment is about Kearney and putting additional funds into their funding. I think Kearney is generally, universally recognized as being underfunded in this state for higher education. The Board of Regents indicated and pointed out that Kearney was the most underfunded institution and, in fact, requested some \$3 million just to bring them up to tie for last place in funding per student among our state education and higher education funds. Right now Kearney is a campus without a country. They are not part of the University of Nebraska. They will be that way July 1st of this year. They're really not part of the state college system anymore and so they're a campus that's out here in the middle of nowhere and the 49 of us, in effect, are their Board of Regents. And it's up to the 49 of us to decide, in some manner, if we're going to address those under...those underfunding problems that have existed. Is this due to the transition? No, not at all. Not