

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

SENATOR MOORE: You know, as Senator Rasmussen mentioned, the lid contained in LB 829 does extend the lid until '94, but it does that to all local subdivisions, and the question is, is, you know, it's one of these things that is almost...well, obviously, it does upset me a little bit because the community colleges say just treat us like school districts, but the lid is no way like a school district's lid. It does not go on into perpetuity like a school district's lid does, like the K-12 lids. Secondly, you have to remember that unlike school districts when a little public school has a bunch of additional students, there is a common...they have no other way of generating more revenue. Whereas a community college, when they get additional students, don't have to raise the tuition necessarily, there are more students paying tuition, more students paying to come to the school. So there is a built-in method of increasing your revenue by the tuition going up and more students going there. And so they are much different than K-12 schools because of that. Thirdly, this lid, whereas the lid on the K-12s is on total expenditures, this lid is just on property taxes, just on property taxes. And, you know, property tax is only 42 percent of the community colleges' budgets, only 42 percent. Thirty-eight percent comes from the state, and the balance comes from tuition and other miscellaneous. And I guess if they want to put the lid like on K-12s, one, it could go on forever, and, two, put it on everything, then we are talking about a lid on less than half of their budget. And the fact is this, if you do this, you are going to allow up to I believe it is 6.5 percent growth on property taxes; tuition is going to go up because, for one, tuition rates are going to go up; two, the amount of students attending are going to pay more tuition, it is going to go up, state aid has went up, and you are going to have the community colleges in some areas of this state looking at double-digit increases, that's double-digit increases in their budget when we are trying to tell people this lid means something, and, in actuality, it doesn't. And it is things like this are going to begin to erode what I would argue in some ways is not an unreasonable, I think it is reasonable for the time span we are talking about, given the conditions we're talking about, but I am greatly concerned this amendment will open the floodgates, for one. I think they are unfair because of that. But more importantly, the technical community colleges keep trying to convince us they want to be treated like K-12. Well,