

September 28, 1992 LB 10

those standards in line to all of a sudden then reduce them down to a \$500 a year maximum benefit. The committee also was sensitive to the fact that we're in a budget cutting mode and there needed to be some form of savings brought forth out of the program. And so what the committee amendment does, basically, is reinstates the 1,200 maximum number of people that can be involved in the program and reinstates that particular cap in terms of the numbers involved. But what it does do in terms of a changing of the movement that, rather than the student absorbing the additional tuition cost, the student will still only pay the 25 percent that they originally had been promised that they would pay, and on behalf of the state we would support 50 percent of the cost of their tuition and then whatever institution, state institution that they chose to take classes in that institution would then, through their tuition remission and the juggling of their accounting procedures then would absorb that other 25 percent. So, for all practical purposes, the student still has what was promised to him and that being the 25 percent tuition responsibility and then the savings, in essence, would come about as a 25 percent burden that is supported or upheld by the institutions where the students would attend. And so I offer this committee amendment to you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Conway. Senator Moore, followed by Senator Chambers.

SENATOR MOORE: Thank you, Madam President. Before I rise to oppose the committee amendments, I'm going to compliment the committee for at least recognizing the problem from a budgetary standpoint and, instead of just simply killing the bill, at least attempting to refine it in a way that does save the state money. And so I compliment them for that. But I guess actually the reason that I'll rise to oppose the amendment is actually the effect of the committee amendments is to basically shift the impact of the...impact of the bill, I guess the downside impact of the bill from the individuals over to the institutions of higher learning. And there is...I mean, that's the argument you need to think about whether or not you want to do that. Basically, if you pass the bill as amended by the Government Committee, you're basically adding on to the across-the-board reduction for the institutions of higher education in the State of Nebraska. By that amount, I think the estimated impact is \$300,000 and so you just add that on to the 1.5 percent budget reduction for institutions of higher learning. Since the University of Nebraska has the highest number of students as