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those only to your attention and would serve notice to those who are interested in this issue that it is my intention to take the State of Nebraska out of the business of providing tuition assistance for the members of the selected reserve forces during the next regular session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Mr. Speaker, members, when we first brought this out of committee I was supportive of Senator Schimek's amendment and idea, but as we got on to the floor and started to discuss it and found out that, in fact, when we...when an agency...or when a college institution or university would appear before appropriations and had received a decrease in the amount of tuition revenue, that they would then ask the Appropriations Committee to make up that decrease that they now are experiencing. So when we were...as we were coming out of committee I was uncomfortable with the fact that we were really passing a cost shift onto the colleges and universities. We were trying to honor those National Guard students in allowing them to remain at that same 75 percent tuition credit. But understanding how the funding works through appropriations, realizing, as Senator Coordsen pointed out, that Army Reserve is at 50 percent, state employees are at 50 percent, legislative employees are at 50 percent, and that the National Guard, which I will discuss later, students have a number of other federal incentives that they can qualify for, but more importantly, as we have discussed a number of issues on the floor, Senator Schimek's amendment saves approximately, and this is not exact but just an approximate number, \$73,000 the first year. The bill, as it stands now, as Senator Coordsen said, would be roughly, I had 335,000, he said 340,000. So really it's just a difference of voting on what we can afford to do, if we can afford to continue funding it at a 75 percent tuition credit, or can we not. The numbers are there, and that's a good...for you to decide if we can afford to do it. We were called into this session to say that we have a budget crunch and we need to make cuts. As we've looked at the cuts, we've made adjustments in a number of areas that we haven't liked to do. I think 50 percent is still a good incentive to students in my mind, and especially when they can also qualify for other federal programs. So I will not be supporting the Schimek amendment, and mainly because we can't afford it. If we could afford it, I think all of us would love to do and continue that for those National Guard students. If we can't afford it, by their own testimony in