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following states in looking at the incentives that are offered to the National Guard. So we called the number at the bottom of this ad and we talked to a gentleman by the name of Sergeant First Class Whitney. The student loan program this referred to in this brochure here is federally funded. The government does pay up to \$10,000 on a loan for a four-year degree. They will pay the loan up to \$8,000 over a six-year period, which is the recruit's first hitch is for six years. If he wants to get the other \$2,000, he will need to re-up. It is an incentive to get people to reinstate. The GI Montgomery bill that they talk about is federally funded, and the gentleman said it is paid to the kid's doorstep at \$140 a month for three years, and the total payout of that is \$5,040. The tuition assistance there that they advertised was federally funded. They lost the program a year ago. His comments were that the Kansas State Legislature has not helped the National Guard with any tuition. They have offered \$100,000 low cost insurance program for the recruit, but that is all the state has done for an incentive. He thought our 50-50 percent proposed bill was great. He said kids are starving for knowledge and he appreciates our state offering this much. I think Nebraska offers a very good incentive, has a lot of interest, and has shown that in their National Guard. I realize it may be disappointing to some when they see a reduction. It always is when something is out there and it looks like we are taking something away, but that is what happens I believe in the special session where we are looking at budget cuts. The cuts that we had originally proposed in the Appropriations Committee has slowly been whittled away. It is getting less and less. This looks like, I think this bill, about our last chance to look at what we are doing, and for that reason, and because I think the 50-50 match is a good incentive, that the state is doing their share, I would urge you to oppose the amendment.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Schimek, just a quick question, if I may, just for my own benefit, I understand what you are saying on educational program. I guess my question is the following, and I go back to discussions we've had years ago when Senator Goodrich brought in at the last moment a deficit appropriation and we were talking about the number of National Guards, and we got into a large debate at that point that is kind of contingent. My question would be the following, if under this amendment, if it was agreed to, if I am enrolled in