

September 30, 1992 LB 10

in effect allows any enlistee in the Nebraska National Guard a window of opportunity of ten years to avail themselves of the 75 percent tuition credit in a state-supported college or university, or a technical school, a community college. The Schimek amendment takes out that window of opportunity and that's acceptable. It provides that those and only those who are currently availing themselves of the opportunity, through their service to us as member of the Nebraska National Guard, enrolled in one of our postsecondary education institutions. So there's a compromise already that has substantial effect on budget exposure. Then we move to the 50 percent which is the current language of LB 10, the drop from 75 to 50 percent, and in a conversation with one of the current members of the guard, it appears to me...it appeared to me that while it wasn't something that was agreeable to them, they were willing to accept that as part of their contribution to the current budget crisis of Nebraska. So should we adopt the Schimek amendment, it does not change our promise whether it is a mandated promise or not to those who are in the program. And it changes the program to 50 percent for all new enlistees and those who are current members and not enrolled in any of the programs. I will support LB 10 with the Schimek amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CONWAY: Senator Bohlke, your light is next.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Mr. President, members, when I first brought the amendment that became the bill that was the 50 percent and we talked about what the cost savings would be, and then with the original Schimek amendment and we talked about comparing those two cost savings, we were at a number for Senator Schimek's at about, and it was just a guess, of about 73,000. No one has asked what we think the fiscal note would be on this. Because this closes or narrows the opportunity or the number of years, that savings will be greater than the 73,000. At 73,000 the first year is really very low. The second year it jumps to, I think, originally we thought about 150. By the fifth year we were up to a half a million. So what I'm trying to show you is that with this Schimek amendment those...we do not know what the exact fiscal note would be but those numbers would be greater than those I have just told you from the original Schimek amendment. I think that's something that we should at least have some idea of the kind of savings that we're looking at and so it would be somewhere in that neighborhood.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Moore,