

we...if we take agency savings or we take savings from the university...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...and we do not...and we take that as a savings, in many cases if the university then has to fund the faculty salary through their own the only way they can do so is on fee increases or tuition increases and I want to stress that that relationship is very crucial. And in Nebraska we do have a low tuition rate and it probably is below the median of where it could be, but I think that's an advantage to our state, to our students that are going there and I appreciate what the committee did on this particular issue. Thank you, Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Before the next speaker, Senator Coordsen has had, in the north balcony, 45 fourth graders from Geneva District 75. Their teachers were with them so would you wave good-bye and welcome them to the Legislature. Thank you for being here. Senator Beutler, on the committee amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Crosby, Senator Wehrbein, a few questions, if I may. It seems like when we get into the appropriations bills it's more than a few questions for the chairman.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR BEUTLER: It's one question...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...after another forever, but that's...I guess that's a necessary part of the process since so many of us are so unfamiliar with the bills before they come in. But I wanted to ask you, and pardon me if I'm repeating in part because I was distracted with a conversation for part of your dialog with Senator Bernard-Stevens, but I wanted to ask you specifically with regard to Section 170. Section 170 says salary increases for state employees not represented by a certified collective bargaining agent shall be given at the discretion of the agency director...director of such agen...of their agency. So what...what...what percent of the employees did you indicate