

that, (a), our support for education at UNL is going to do down and we also know that tuition is going to go up with the Avery amendment. I don't think that's what we want to do. I don't think that's in the best interest of education in this state, nationally, or just particularly for our own students, so that's one of the reasons why, among many, that I oppose the Avery amendment.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Avery.

SENATOR AVERY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. In looking at the data, there...I have to consider what the university has done. They have a budget of 300, 400 million dollars. In terms of that funds, one thing that my amendment does as well is open the door where they can take this. It necessarily...there might be a slight increase in tuition but the University of Nebraska, do we have to have the lowest tuition around in terms of the other universities? I'm not sure if it's right at the lowest level but we have to, I think, be responsible as well, pay. I don't think we need to subsidize everyone that is going to be going to the university. I think they...we have to pay. But we have a limited number of dollars to deal with. This attempt I have, there's several things in the bill that are earmarked that, in terms of earmarking, those are areas that are directed to the university to fund. With my amendment, it doesn't...it opens those earmarks up to allow the university a little more flexibility to utilize the lump sum. We give them a lump sum of dollars. They do not...it's not like our other agencies where we look into each particular way they spend it. We give them a lump sum, they spend it how they feel is the best way. So I think, in being responsible, we have to look at the dollars that are available and give them according to what we have to do or the dollars that we have and the example that we have to set to the rest of the state in terms of funding. It has been stated that they're...in...prior to them coming to the table and asking for their budget, I had heard that they agreed to a little bit less than this 10 percent over the biennium. If that...if that's the case, I think we should take advantage of that. I think they can be fiscally responsible in looking at the dollars that they spend and we have to...have to do the same. I would...would hope...and maybe this isn't...isn't the figures that we need. Maybe we can...we can adjust that. But the university enrollment is going down. The information I was given, the enrollment is going down, so consequently, you know,