

certainly it couldn't be consent calendar bill, and it is something that needed to be done and so now it's a part of the appropriations package. So I appreciate Senator Wehrbein's working and Senator Bohlke's doing it. I confess that it made it a little bit more difficult, which rarely happens. I rarely make things more difficult. But it is a good bill. Senator Bohlke's amendment is a good amendment and I urge adoption of both.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Matzke, to speak to the Bohlke amendment.

SENATOR MATZKE: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I strongly support this bill and the amendment to it. We do a great deal in education in this state for young people that want to go to college and get an academic education. We do not do enough for those young people who want to have some type of technical education. This is a step in the right direction. My fear with the community colleges over the years has been that they are in a drift toward academic pursuits to the detriment of technical education and education in technology. We live in an international society in which we have to compete with countries that are dedicated to high technology, such as Japan and Germany. If we fail to educate our young people in technology and similar pursuits, we're going to fall far behind. I think this is a step in the right direction. I commend Senator Bohlke for bringing this, and I think her amendment is important because this re-emphasis on technical education should continue into the future. I would urge both the passage of the amendment and the bill.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Matzke. Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: On the amendment, not this one.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Yes, Madam Speaker, members. I rise in support of LB 241, the amendment and the bill. The study that they... that Senator Bohlke had referred to was one interim study that was introduced by Senator Scott Moore and myself several years ago. We had an amendment at one time to Senator Withem's bill looking at the role and mission of community colleges that would have established 3.0 in the weighting difference, which made quite a shift in funding throughout the community college