

being spent constitutes less the three tenths of 1 percent of the amount of tax funds spent on higher education. Given the fact that it's...and a very small portion of it, of spending in the higher education area, I don't think it's...this is the place we ought to be putting major cuts. I think that there are other areas, certainly, where that can be done. And I think, more importantly, this is a program that is geared or targeted at those with significant financial need. This is not...whereas, we spend about seven times as much in nonneed-based tuition admissions as we do in this need-based assistance. I think if you compare the aid that we are giving in this area to what we are doing in other states, Iowa; for example, we are at 850 thousand, Iowa is at 37 million; Missouri is at 11 million; Kansas is at 6 million, I think it is going the wrong direction from where we ought to be at. I suggest we leave...we leave it where it is. I think Senator Wehrbein has given an adequate explanation of the need to keep it in the budget, and I would urge that we do that.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Lindsay. Senator Avery.

SENATOR AVERY: Thank you, Madam President. In many ways, I would agree with many of those that have stood up and talked in terms of need for this. My purpose here, looking at the history of both this body and what the Governors in the past have done, these have been drastically cut. I was trying to look at the amount of increase, reduce it slightly, hope it stays off of the chopping block. I can't guarantee that. I have got a gut feeling from working with and talking with the Governor that, and as I say it is my own feeling, that this would be way down on the list if we showed an effort, and we haven't shown an effort, I don't think, in anywhere in the budget to take some type of reduction in terms of what has been put forth. So I don't know, I will sit and listen on this. These are...it is not so much that the need isn't there, I feel the need is there, too, but I'm offering this on the basis that potentially there wouldn't be any further reductions in it, and we could provide some needed services. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Avery. Senator Wesely. The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I see five hands. The question before you is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted. Please record.