

funding level and looking at reimbursing community colleges, more for applied technology than some of the other courses that were taught. In looking at how that balanced out, there was kind of a win-loss situation for the community colleges across the state, where some states (sic), because of their enrollment in that particular course, would gain some state money, and some institutions would lose. And in your handout you would have there that these dollar amounts would neutralize the impact of the formula change. It was a specific policy choice at the time, with 241, that we would not hold any institution harmless. In other words, we never attempted to neutralize that funding. And that's how, I guess, I look at this particular issue. It's not a question of being fair to other institutions, or looking how we're...how much money and the percentage that's coming up for the university and for state colleges. This is a separate issue, in my mind, in that it was to...that dollars...it was looking...we were looking at was to be able to fund the community college system so we would "hold harmless" those institutions that did not receive as much money under LB 241 as perhaps another one. So in my estimation it was a policy choice when we did 241 not to fund this part of it, and that's my opinion of what we're doing right now, rather than trying to do a comparison with other institutions. So because of a policy choice that was made on 241, I would oppose your amendment.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Hillman. Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I rise in support of the amendment. I cosponsored this amendment, in fact, with Senator Bernard-Stevens, and my reasoning is fairly simple and that is that, as Senator Bernard-Stevens has indicated, this would, in my mind at least, simply put the community colleges on equal footing with the state colleges and the university system with respect to the funds that have been restored from last year's vetoes. And certainly I don't take any amendment lightly that is adding dollars back into the budget, and I can understand Senator Wehrbein's argument that this, you know, is a recurring thing that happens every year; that there are amendments that crop up that start to add dollars back, and there are entities that say, okay, dollars have been added to entity A and we're entity B so now we deserve to have the dollars added back. But at the same time, I do think the better part of the argument with respect to this amendment is that it is maintaining the community colleges on equal footing