

committee because of the difference in what we negotiated with as a state with state agencies and also the university and what they had negotiated for. And so for the university and for state colleges and for NETC it was a salary issue that drove the additional money. And it's not just this is additional money, but it's money specifically to address their negotiated salary arrangements and thank you.

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

SENATOR HILLMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, members, just a couple of more words and I won't pursue this anymore. But what I'd like to do is kind of frame what I think the issue is here. And the issue has nothing to do in a comparison with any of the other institutions of higher education, nothing. This is a completely separate issue. If you want to do the comparisons between the community colleges and the state colleges and the university, take this issue out of it because it doesn't pertain to any of the other things we did with higher ed. Having said that, I will tell you that probably my preference of higher education community colleges because how very active they are in my own community and would like to see them be able to get as many resources as they can. This particular issue with me is that it is something that needs to be addressed because of a policy we made when (LB) 241 was passed and it was a policy that said we will not hold harmless any institution in the community colleges that are adversely affected by 241 and the changes in the formula. The particular funds that Senator Bernard-Stevens is talking about in my estimation is not to neutralize, not to keep everybody. That was never an issue. We never talked like that. What we said was we would not hold harmless any institution that perhaps lost money because of the changes in formula. This is what this money addresses and for that reason and that reason alone, I oppose the amendment. It's because we've already made that decision as a policy. I do not think we should change that decision, and this particular funding level has nothing to do with the way we funded other higher ed institutions in the state of Nebraska. And with that, I would give back my time, Mr. Chairman.

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

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I again rise in support of the Bernard-Stevens amendment. I guess