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those amendments if they have not been passed out yet. But I would...when you receive them, I'd like for you to look in Section 4 and this offers an alternative to the committee amendment of appropriating the \$4 million from the General Fund. And I am proposing that the funding for this act come from the Education Innovation Fund, and I've proposed to appropriate 15 percent of the fund to this act. So it will no longer require any funds from the General Fund. The Education Innovation Fund continues to go to schools, so we are not actually changing the path of those funds. However, 15 percent would be targeted to the vocational technical programs. In addition, this amendment would allow for 3.2 million in unobligated funds in the Education Innovation Fund to be appropriated to this act for the 1999-2000 school year. I realize that this is a one-time appropriation. However, it would allow schools to buy some needed equipment or provide some training to teachers. And if you support this amendment and LB 495, schools across Nebraska can finally receive the funding that they desperately need to prepare our students for careers in Nebraska. The second part of the amendment tightens up the bill and it makes it more concise by eliminating some of the vague language, including the assessment system found in Section 7 of the amendment. And if this amendment is adopted, each school must submit a report according to assessment system designed by the Department of Education, and that assessment would do a follow-up of students beyond graduation, at one-year, three-year and five-year intervals, and we have been looking, I know as a member of the Education Committee, for some follow-up information. It would also indicate the number of students participating in the approved career preparation programs and an accounting of how the funds are received pursuant to the act and how they were used to develop new and existing programs. The total, and it would also include the total cost of the approved career programs. So I urge your adoption of this amendment and also would be happy to answer any questions. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. For discussion on the Stuhr amendment to the committee amendment, Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President and members. A question of Senator Stuhr, please.