

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

March 23, 1999 LB 495

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Jones, please.

SENATOR JONES: Senator Coordsen, members of the body, I want to stand up and visit with you just a little bit about this, because I do think that as time goes on, the colleges and universities is going to cost more and more and more, and I'm just wondering whether they can afford it. My granddaughter, I know, went to Kearney; she had a four-year Regents, and that's not possible for everybody. But the ones that didn't have it, I know my son said, if she didn't have it, she couldn't have went. So there's another reason I think something like this might work. I guess, I would like to ask Senator Stuhr a question, if I could.

SENATOR STUHR: Yes.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Question.

SENATOR JONES: Yes. We're talking about how this is being divided up for schools, and it was mentioned \$1,600 a school. What about ESUs, can we change it so it can go just strictly through ESUs, and then they could have...they could know what each school would need, and only have to apply for one grant in place of this commission being set up to decide what every school is going to get? How would something like that fit?

SENATOR STUHR: Well, actually, the formula is quite simple in the fact that it does provide for \$1,600 per program. We know how many programs that schools are offering right now, which might be three or four. And then it's also according to the number of students that are involved in those programs. So, I don't believe that there is, you know, that much difficulty as knowing what the formula and how much the grant would be toward...you know, to each school. There is a possibility, again it takes away local control, of deciding how those funds...each school would now have the decision of deciding how they wanted those funds spent.

SENATOR JONES: Yeah. What made me think about that was because ESU 16 put in for a grant so they could get distant learning,