

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

March 23, 1999 LB 495

SENATOR HARTNETT: How many schools have approved programs, do you know right now, of the state? She says 283. How many K...or how many programs in the state?

SENATOR STUHR: Six hundred and forty programs.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Six hundred and forty programs. So you say 200...and 83. Okay, thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you. There are no further lights on. Senator Stuhr, you've already spoken three times. Did you wish to close on your amendment?

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Senator Coordsen and members of the Legislature. I do feel that career preparation does have a unique mission and place in the comprehensive secondary schools. It is educationally sound. As we pointed out before, students do learn differently, some learn from the abstract, others need more concrete experiences. But these classes are the ones that sometime help students to reinforce and enhance the academic competencies that they already have. Also, these programs do support postsecondary education and training. Advanced training must be built on a solid base of learning and strong academics, as I pointed out before. Third, not having access to career preparation programs at the secondary level really robs students of potential skills that could be developed. Our world is changing. Technology continues to play a role in that. What we are asking, what my amendment does is target 15 percent of these funds for the vocational technical area. It will help programs to be continually updated. It will assist schools in providing that equipment, and it will also provide some curriculum materials that could be used. Again, many of our schools are under budget constraints. What this money would do would be to enhance the quality of these programs and make them better, and really is an investment in the future of our state. Students and our young people are the future. And I believe that by having some additional grant to enhance this quality of these programs would be beneficial, not only to the students, but in the long-run to the future of our state. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you. You've heard the closing on the