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this. And, as I said, I think it should be interpreted broadly that they...so there is no waste, I will be looking at it. Senator Chambers is going to speak to this, too. They...even though I believe that their record is fairly good, it does need to be improved per the statute that we passed two years ago. And so with that, I urge you to look at this amendment very carefully. I think it is a good solution to an impasse that we had yesterday, and I would urge your support.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. We are now discussing the Wehrbein amendment to LB 1217. Those wishing to speak are Senators Kristensen, Chambers and Bohlke. Senator Kristensen.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, this obviously is a different approach than what the last two amendments have been. There...it's new money, as I understand, Senator Wehrbein, that would go towards the policy goal of meeting those benchmarks. Again, I think there you could say that those benchmarks, if you've missed them, that was a penalty, and that the previous amendments were penalties towards doing that. You could also probably term this as money that we're paying because those benchmarks were missed and in fact that could...that's a penalizing, except that we're penalizing now in a different manner maybe other people's bills or the bottom line of the state budget. And in terms of is that a worthy goal, I don't think there's anybody that would disagree, that's not a good goal, to seek increased monies and to increase those hires, to retain those individuals is difficult. I'll tell you that from the University of Nebraska at Kearney's point of view it is a difficult task to go out and do it. They've been able to do it so far, because they work hard and they've not spent a lot of money doing this. I don't know if this guarantees them success, but I do think that the other part of this amendment, if I understand right, the study is still in there, isn't it, Senator Wehrbein, of the Legislature? That's crucial, as far as I'm concerned, for us, and we probably have to take the initiative, as the Legislature, to monitor that money, where it's going and how it's been used. That study is a short study, because it's going to be prepared and completed prior to next year's budget. And I'm sure that there will be people who will want to make sure that when we