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SENATOR STUHR: Yes.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Stuhr, you're recognized to open on that amendment.

SENATOR STUHR: What this amendment does is allow that we have a task force to study this entire area which we, as I said, we have been looking at for the last number of years. It would be called the Education and Career Preparation Task Force. It will have a wide variety of members, teachers, work force people, community colleges. I think that there's a great need of looking at courses that are offered in high school, how we can make that more of a seamless delivery to the community colleges or to our secondary universities or such. And what this task force would do then study the purpose and mission of career preparation and technical education programs, those in the secondary schools, the need for career preparation and technical education programs both at the middle and high school levels; funding; availability of teachers. We're becoming very critical need of industrial tech teachers, many of the teachers in this area, also articulation programs, as I mentioned, in high schools and postsecondary education institutions. And I thought it was interesting the other day that I visited with some of the students from the University of Nebraska and we had lunch with them and I said, what would you do over if you had an opportunity? And they said they would try to take more classes that might prepare them for the work force and also prepare them for the university and would...and it would save them money because they would prevent that duplication. And there are many times that when students are seniors in high school that they don't make the best use of their time and they were saying they really wished that they would have made better use of their time. So I think with this task force that we would have the opportunity then to really look more in-depth to what our needs might be across the state. I came with this bill and it actually...we were proposing \$6 million to begin with, but that is really the critical needs that are out there. We've continually reduced that amount. As I said, the amendment I had previously was only \$1.5 million that might be allowed for grants, but we all know what the budget concerns are. And at this point, I would be just very pleased if we could at least have a task force to begin the study in this area. So I'd be