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students wishing to enter employment directly, but also academic skills deemed to provide students with better preparation for both the world of work and postsecondary education. In addition, vocational training will eventually contribute to the development of the Nebraska economy. There are a number of people who have indicated interest in vocational training in state of Nebraska in vocational education. The president of the Omaha Federation of Labor said it's an excellent idea. Metro Community College said they received great responses in discussing the idea, needs to be looked at very, very seriously. Kathleen McCallister, Douglas County Board member, said it's 20 years overdue; we're light-years behind. Larry Gendler, Sarpy County Juvenile Judge, says many juveniles who go through this court have the talent and focus to handle a vocational program. There's a shortage of that kind of work force. Once they acquire that skill, they can live anywhere in the world and make a living. Even received a letter from Duane Hunt who is the managing director of the Omaha Community Playhouse. He's the director of the Theater Technology Apprenticeship Program. He says they have a lot of people who could get a jump-start doing that particular thing, if only they were able to get this kind of education before they get out of high school. So I would urge the body to support, not only this amendment, but also, if there is some funding that could be made available, to get started on doing the kinds of things we need to support vocational education in the state of Nebraska. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kiel. Senator Redfield, on the Stuhr amendment.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members of the body. Senator Stuhr, Senator Stuhr and Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR STUHR: Yes.

SENATOR REDFIELD: I just wanted to address this issue, because this is something that I've had a great deal of interest in as a school board member, I worked in the school-to-career activities as a board member. It's something that I think is extremely necessary in our state. But as a member of the Business and Labor community or Committee here in the Unicameral, we had the Work Force Investment Act before us. And I was one of the