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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature. You know, I look at what possibly is going to happen to the University of Nebraska if funds are cut out there, the state colleges and what's going to happen there, and community colleges. Norfolk is...the Northeast Nebraska Community College is probably one of the finest community colleges in the state. I have former employees, young people, that have worked for me in the grocery store, that go there. One of the reasons that they go there is because they don't...or they do not like going to a state college or the university system. They go there also because of the type of job that they want to pursue. And we know what's going to happen to the university with budget cuts out there. Tuition is going to raise. State colleges are in the same situation. Now, I don't know if that's going to be a problem in Northeast. Maybe...Senator Tyson, maybe that is something they should do, is raise the tuition. The people that are using it are the ones that are going to be paying for it. Tax dollars are going in there now. I hate to see that put upon our young people, but that could be a solution, by raising the tuition. With that, I'd give the rest of my time to Senator Baker. I believe he is up next.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, President Cudaback and members. I too rise in opposition to this amendment as a Revenue Committee member. I think we've all spoke on it now, possibly. But I'm more...I'm looking to a more permanent solution. I think Senator Bourne alluded to it. My question was, why not combine these...some of these districts, change boundaries, and so on? There was a question in the committee. I requested an Attorney General's Opinion, which is back, it came back, I think it was printed in the Journal one day last week, that said we can do this legislatively. Senator, I'm not sure, Landis, I think, said we have a solution here; we didn't have a vehicle to do it with right now. But to throw more money at it is not, in my opinion, the correct solution. We can go back, as I recall, and I don't have the file up here, but I believe there was \$7 billion of valuation in Northeast Community College,