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go through the convulsi...fiscal convulsions these recent years. And I think that Senator Raikes, both in his creative realignment of the scholarship funds and in the detail work that's been done here, is recommending to us something that is very sensible, very positive towards the backing of public education in the state, and hopefully worthwhile, in your opinion. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Connealy.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. Since I've been here I've been a strong supporter of private independent colleges, and I think that we've gotten a really good deal out of those independent colleges here, for the money that we've put into need-based aid to these colleges. I've been a very strong supporter. I think that we've retained an awful lot of graduates here in the state. We've educated a lot of good citizens and a lot of workers here through these college aid programs. I am sad that it looks like they are going away. I am reluctantly going to support the Raikes amendments and the Education Committee bill. But I think that I want to stand up for what we've done in the past, and we didn't do that much. A lot of states do an awful lot more for independent colleges. And I know the constraints we're in. I know the constraints that our public institutions are in, and the students that are attending those. So I am open to moving more money into the public sector, but I also want to defend the programs that we've had in the past and those institutions. They are going to be part of this mix but they are not going to get any preferential treatment as they have had a small preferential treatment in the past. And I don't want us to think that that wasn't good policy when it was in place because I think it was. And with that, I am in support of the Raikes amendment and thus the committee amendments and the underlying bill.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Senator Chambers. I don't think Senator Chambers is in the Chamber. Senator Schimek. Here he is, Senator Chambers, your light is next.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this is a very difficult pill and bill for me to swallow. I'm