

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 29, 2003 LB 407, 574

and figure that out. But I will rise in support of Senator Chambers' amendment. I think some good points have been made. I don't rise in support of it probably for the reasons that Senator Chambers is espousing here on the floor or others, but for the pure fiscal reality of the situation, I will rise in support of FA1340. And with that, I will yield the rest of my time to the Chair. (Laughter)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Maxwell.

SENATOR MAXWELL: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in opposition to the amendment. I just want to insert that federal need-based aid can be used at private schools, so there's nothing unique or revolutionary or radical about state need-based aid being used at private schools. I understand there are other philosophical issues in play, but I want to make that observation. Secondly, PEAP is going away. It takes a year for it to happen, but PEAP is going away. I think a transition is entirely appropriate. A transition that cushions the blow is entirely appropriate. Let's be candid. Whatever money there is in need-based aid has been the result of lobbying by private schools over the year, so it's entirely appropriate that there's a transition built in. More importantly, the scenario in LB 574 prevents us from pulling the rug out from under students who are now using need-based aid at private schools. LB 574 is a reasonable compromise. I urge you to vote no on this amendment, and support what has been put together under LB 574. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Maxwell. Senator Schrock, followed by Senator Schimek, Bourne, Engel and Erdman.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, I'll be brief. I don't have any institutions of higher learning in my legislative district. All I have is corn, cattle and some good people. But if you'd shut down all the private colleges in this state and put them in the public universities, our burden, our financial burden, will be much greater. If we can help some of these students that are going there, I think we should continue to do that. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Schimek.