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

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necessarily reward that type of efficiency. In fact, in this case specifically, it was somewhat penalized. The other community colleges across the state recognize that Northeast is doing more with less every day. And you may say, well, it...they have to meet those needs of the students, but they can certainly cut in places. And cut they have. Northeast Community College, in the last few years, has cut athletic programs, staff reductions, has opted not to rehire positions when somebody leaves due to retirement. They have restricted travel. They have done everything in their power to keep the money focused on the students and the educational opportunities. And the other day, when we had the FFA members in town, I had six young men, seniors at Newman Grove High School, that were sitting under the balcony, and I asked them, where are you guys going to go to school when you get done? Or what are you going to do when you graduate? Five of the six said, we're going to go to Northeast Community College. How often do you look at kids from a rural area that are going to go to a rural school with hopes of staying in Madison County? The sixth one that wasn't going to Northeast was going to University of Nebraska at Kearney. Two of the members in that group under the balcony wanted to work in agriculture and take over dad's farm. Northeast Community College has an ag program that is And we have to keep that going. And so I second to none. wanted to share that with you, because I think that shares the story of what Northeast Community College can do. doubt that Northeast, through the years, has been focused in Norfolk. But recently, in the past 20 years, we've seen advances in O'Neill and West Point as they branch out. today, as you hear, we're looking at a campus in South Sioux City, so that we don't have kids crossing the border into Iowa, to keep them here. In fact, we had been paying Western Iowa Tech to educate some of our kids on an in-state tuition basis. It makes sense to support the efforts in Dakota County. But what you've got in front of you is more or less a compromise. If you look at the studies that have been done on the funding formula, a half cent to the base doesn't take care of all Northeast's problems. But increased student enrollment does. And we'd be serving an area of the state that's growing, that's positive, that's welcoming these folks in. How would this money be used? You may wonder, what type of impact will