

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

April 6, 2005 LB 38

has been...that is no longer in effect, of course. But there's another situation. Like I keep saying, I said, in northeast Nebraska now we have a huge minority population. Western Iowa Tech is still over in Sioux City, Iowa, but they're really unaffordable for our population. Another thing, as far as the minorities, again, they do realize the value of an education. And I think it's so important if they want to catch up with the rest of it, it's very, very important that they get this education. But it has to be affordable. Another thing about the minority population up there, they don't want to leave home to get their education. And like I told you, right across the river, four miles away, they can get it, but it's too expensive. So they don't want to leave home, and most of them have to work in order to get their education. So with this facility in South Sioux City, they can do both. They can stay home, they can work, and they can get an education that's so important. In this study also, it showed that there's about...the state saves about 19 percent in social and health costs from those people who do get an education through community colleges or otherwise. So there is a savings to the state in the long run. And we know what the cost of our health is...health coverage here is in the state of Nebraska. Another thing, as far as Wayne State College, this is a cooperative effort between the two of them as far as this projected campus. The reason I say projected campus, right now, Western...I mean, Northeast is leasing a building in South Sioux City. They have a six-year lease on this building. That was approved by the Coordinating Commission. So that...and if...and I'll tell you...almost guarantee you one thing. If enrollment doesn't increase where it looks like this is viable, that you will not see a campus built. But the potential is there, and there's all kinds of pluses as far as this really, really operating to everybody's benefit in northeast Nebraska. So again, I want to emphasize that there's a lot of cooperation up there between our city, our county, and our school districts. As far as when...as far as where this campus could be built, the land will be donated. A lot of infrastructure will be taken care of by the local communities, and et cetera, et cetera. So it is a cooperative effort up there. Everybody is becoming part of it. So again, I just can't emphasize enough as far as how important education is, and if we're going to help these folks...not only the