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SENATOR ENGEL: Mr. President, members of the body, I just rise in support of the amendment and the bill. I've always said that education, a good education, is the great equalizer. If you get an education, no matter where you are or where you come from, with gumption on your part you can do anything anybody else can do. And I do believe this distance education is so important for the state of Nebraska. It's occurring...with this bill, the opportunities it will afford by sharing our resources with all the students in the state of Nebraska, what's happening in higher education in the same field across the state of Nebraska, I think we'll be able to afford an opportunity to so many people to get this education that is so necessary. And with that, I don't want to take any more time. I just want to afford my support for the amendment and the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Engel. Senator Louden, followed by Senator Fischer.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I would like to ask Senator Raikes a question, if he would answer, please, if he'd yield.

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes?

SENATOR LOUDEN: This goes back to this distance learning and using...I understand you have to use Network Nebraska, is what you're planning on, under this situation?

SENATOR RAIKES: You wouldn't have to use it, Senator. If you want to receive the incentive payments for sharing coursework, then you would need to use Network Nebraska, and you would need to use the Distance Education Council, which is the coordinating mechanism.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Now...

SENATOR RAIKES: But you're free not to...you as a school district are free not to use those, if you don't want to.