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FLOOR DEBATE

March 23, 2006 LB 1208

Raikes has offered an amendment so to fund both of them. But they...that is the law currently and that is the way the mechanism is set up currently by this Legislature. Maybe not all the same people, but that's what was done during the special session during the budget crisis.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay. Thank you. I rise in opposition to AM2721 because I have concerns that we haven't gone about the right process in how this should be dealt with. And when we look at various demands for dollars, we have to prioritize, and I have to say that distance education, and especially to rural Nebraska, is more important. And I would love to be able to underwrite the tuition for highly qualified students. I'll admit I'm not familiar with the terms of the program and what it looks like. I'm not sure that there...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: ...I would like...I would like to know, actually, if there are some requirements in terms of excellence. When we talk about attracting excellence, if it's just merely a shortage area, what is the mechanism for attracting excellence to the shortage area? And we have more and more shortage areas, whether it's math and science or even language arts. In fact, there's probably a shortage across the board regardless of subject area. And we need to allow some flexibility, perhaps, at the local level to do that, but somehow that gets left out of the equation. So I hope that we can defeat AM2721 and perhaps continue to work on this, but I don't want to take money away from distance education to do so. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Brashear. The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do see five hands. The question before the body is, shall debate cease on AM2721? All in favor vote aye; opposed, nay. The question before the body is, shall debate cease on AM2721 to LB 1208? Have you all voted who care to? Record please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Debate does cease. Senator Raikes, you're