

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

March 29, 2006 LB 239

States shall not be eligible on the basis of residence within a state or a political subdivision for any postsecondary education benefit, unless, unless a citizen or national of the United States is eligible for such benefit in no less an amount, duration and scope, without regard to whether the citizen or national is such a resident. And that's a critical point, because this bill does not prevent any other citizen of the United States, if they live in Iowa or Montana or Missouri, they can come over here and establish residence by graduating from one of our high schools and for...and living here three years with a parent or guardian. It does not discriminate against out-of-state students. This whole issue was the issue in the Kansas case that was filed after Kansas passed their state law, and the Kansas courts...actually not the Kansas courts, the federal court in Kansas threw out the case because the plaintiffs...they said the plaintiffs did not...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...have standing because the plaintiffs were not being harmed by the policy. Their tuition wasn't going up. It wasn't hurting them. And so...and the court said, at that time, that it was up to the states to decide this issue. And so I firmly believe that you have to read all of the federal law to be able to affirmatively...or to believe that this is the case. And nine other states have believed it, and nine other states have written and passed laws almost word for word exactly like we are hopefully going to do here tonight. So I respectfully disagree with Senator Flood. I don't have the expertise to argue with him, but I think other people have written those opinions, and I think...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...they're quite compelling. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek and Senator Wehrbein. Senator Combs, followed by Senator Thompson and 12 others.

SENATOR COMBS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body,