

amendment.

SENATOR MOORE: Madam President and members, I rise as a cosponsor to support Senator Hillman's amendment. I think the body needs to understand the significance of this amendment. I think it puts the whole system in the right direction, not saying there's a wrong direction now, but maybe just because of the...one of my predecessors in there several, in here, several times removed, Stan Matzke, Sr., obviously played a key role in building up the vocational technical community college system to what it now is in the State of Nebraska. One of my concerns in recent years, it appears to me though I know they will try and argue that it's not the case, I have a great, great concern that the roots of that whole system is not going to be sustained at it's proper level. Instead there's going to be a chase towards more money and more politically popular area of academic transferring. I have great concern of that. I think the...I'm not going to...I've not been tutored enough to use the word applied technology, whatever the word was, I'm going to stick with vocational education at least for today. I think those areas we know were certainly expensive and for that reason it is in the state's best interest to pay more for those type of programs because they cost more. It's that simple and the fact is, I mean we could go in by statute and actually prohibit certain activity in the area of academic transfer. I don't know...that's one of those things, it's good in some places and it's bad in others but I think regardless of what portion of the state you're in, it doesn't make sense from a state policy perspective that the one tier of our higher educational triad of community colleges, state colleges and university system, that the leg of the stool dealing with vocational education we can't undermine that by having them spend a lot of time, a lot of efforts and a lot of money in areas other than vocational education. If that's rewarding, that's fine, I think there are certainly...there are instances across the State of Nebraska where that is worthwhile, but as a whole that vocational component is the most important and I think this amendment, almost through a carrot and stick approach by giving a more favorable waiting to those students taking vocational type courses, this would be a proper method for the state to steer the community college system, I wouldn't say, I don't want to say keep them in that direction because the fact is this year, in recent years and even more so in years to come it certainly has become readily apparent to me that the trend, as I have said before, my concern is if can stay around here long enough, by