

Nebraska, at the beginning of it there is one day you go to a retirement planning seminar and they, hopefully, pound into you the options you have and the reasons why you should be interested in what you do for the next 30 years and by once you have that introduction to what is going on, maybe once every four or five years you do go to a retirement seminar but it's your benefit that you go and it's coming out of your pocket. I think that's only fair. Now Senator Haberman is, as I listened to his arguments against the amendment, I was confused. He kept talking about other employees that are over 50 years of age and the bill doesn't impact those whatsoever and you don't have to compare to the State Patrol and things like that. The only thing Senator Haberman was talking about when I listened to him, he was talking about what happens after 50 years of age. This bill doesn't affect that. It doesn't change that, it doesn't alter anything and there's no reason to compare those things as far as passage of this bill. What you have to look at, and as someone else mentioned, you know, the other, with the exception of the counties, those other retirement plans are a defined benefit plan anyway and so there is not the reason, there is not the risk involved there. But nevertheless, I think the Robinson amendment would be a good amendment to adopt to Senator Haberman's amendment. It would say to the state employees and Nebraska would serve us so well, that we want you to understand the retirement plan that we have. We want you to be a partner with the retirement, not the Retirement Committee, but the retirement board on developing your pension plan and to encourage you to do that, you know, everybody that is now a state employee will have the opportunity to go to this program in the next four years; any new employee in the first 12 months that they are on the retirement plan can go to a retirement seminar, become aware of the importance of this to them and then after that, as it should be with the Robinson amendment, state employees that want to continue to look at their options and continue to go these seminars, they would have to do...they certainly could do so, but it would have to come out of their own pocket, take a vacation day of their own. I think it would be a vacation day well spent, both for them and us, as they develop a reasonable and attractive retirement plan. So with that, I support Senator Robinson's amendment and urge the body to do so as well and return the bill to Select File.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Robinson is next, then Senator Haberman.