

(inaudible)...as the...

PRESIDENT: Senator Baack, just a moment, you weren't on. Would you repeat what you said, please.

SENATOR BAACK: Yes, Senator Wesely. My amendment deletes the same language that the committee deleted in their committee amendment, but that language is not in there.

SENATOR WESELY: Okay, thank you. Let me...I would support the amendment then, and let me tell you a little of the background of why we should agree to the committee amendment. The language that would have been added that Senator Baack is deleting along with the Banking Committee raises an issue that has come up before and I just want to alert this Legislature to it. If you recall, we had struggled and struggled with the idea of employees who retire being able to be on the state employee group health insurance program. We've had legislation to provide for that over the years and it has been consistently rejected by this Legislature. But what happened was, and, Senator Schmit, you'll recall this discussion in the committee, but what happened was we went to this new plan of how we negotiate benefits and there was a negotiation that occurred and the negotiation gave to the employees the very benefit that this Legislature had rejected over the years and this amendment then that we deleted from this bill, I appreciate Senator Baack deleting from his amendment, would have extended beyond what was negotiated on to other employees and probably, I've got to say that eventually we may have to do that just to be fair, but I think it would be better to bring that bill up and discuss it at that time and I think really talk about this negotiation system that we have place that in one year we can reject a benefit as a Legislature and the next year, administratively, provide the benefit and I don't want to get in that big discussion right now because it is not part of this amendment but I want to alert you that this did happen. The Banking Committee caught it and thought we ought to talk about that and how that happens, so I would support this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schmit, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: (Response inaudible.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Baack, do you wish to close on your amendment?