

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President. Again, I rise in support of the amendment. It's clearly just a one-year proposal that says, look, let's take a look at our plan. I think it's a very straightforward approach that says we probably need to examine where we're at with our employees. But to not, I think, offer to continue the system as it exists, and then go about looking at your pay plan with the threat out there that you may roll it back, I can guarantee you that every one of us will have the want ads open on the desks of our various employees probably the second week of June, as they go about the process of saying, well, who knows what's going to happen, and if something comes up either in another division of government, either over at the university where they have a fairly liberal pay scale, depending on what you do, maybe some of them will go so far as to get into journalism and really roll in the big bucks. But the fact of the matter is that this is a very fair way to put not only our staff on notice, but ourselves on notice that we're going to examine the system as it exists. We...all we do is say for one year \$140,000 worth, and that's the outside limit, that is the outside limit. Folks like myself who are rather stingy and won't give 5 percent to their employees are going to cut back on those numbers. From what I've heard, there's at least four or five others, like myself, who aren't going to give those full 5 percents unless they're warranted. You're going to see that number reduce. That's what you have to look at here. And I think it's only fair to the employees to say at this point in time we're going to continue for one year. You're on record knowing that we're going to reexamine the way our current system operates, possibly make changes to that. But for right now we aren't going to change the rules of the game. I would urge adoption of this amendment, I think it's a very, as Senator Schimek pointed out, a very consistent proposal that says we need to examine the system, but yet we don't want to, I think, put anybody's feet to the fire between now and the time that we have put that information together. It's not fair to make this decision without knowing just what effect it's going to have. I would urge adoption.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, this is my third and last time to speak on this. I'd like to ask Senator Moore a question.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Moore.