

SENATOR CHIZEK: Amendment 1975 (sic) basically is a...what we have right now is, example, a teacher can retire at age 60 and, as you heard some of the conversation earlier, they can carry their insurance until they can pay for both ends, the employer's contribution and theirs, until they're eligible for Medicare, Medicaid and that way provide, you know, the coverage that they need. Basically, what the amendment does is allows those people to...that they...that a current employee who retires while the employee has a plan in effect can continue just like they could under the other plan, basically is what the amendment does. I think that when you have people who have...who feel that they have a program or a plan in effect that allows them this period of time or this window, if you would, that it's wrong to remove that window or that opportunity for coverage from them, and I didn't believe that it was eligible under 167 and so that's why I offer the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Chizek. Senator Landis, followed by Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR LANDIS: Would Senator Chizek yield for a question or two?

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Chizek?

SENATOR CHIZEK: Yes.

SENATOR LANDIS: Senator Chizek, what are the rights of a retiring employee today in a city or school? Can they vary? Are they all the same? Are they uniform?

SENATOR CHIZEK: Teachers can retire at age 60 and carry it until they're eligible.

SENATOR LANDIS: Although there are more than one offer of insurance out there for teachers, are all the plans exactly the same on that score?

SENATOR CHIZEK: I don't know whether they all are. I understand most of them are. I don't know.

SENATOR LANDIS: They say the Blue Cross/Blue Shield plan operates that way and that covers most, most teachers.

SENATOR CHIZEK: That's my understanding.