

SENATOR LANDIS: Okay. Thank you very much. That's helpful for me. What Senator Chizek suggests here is that any employee, without regard to whether...and the circumstance he describes is in the teachers' area where there is a massive plan that covers a great many teachers, although the language of his amendment applies to all employees and it's not nearly the same case with cities, so it will provide considerable difficulty with respect to apparently this uniform contractual obligation for cities. But what we have out there is apparently we have a master plan that lots of teachers have, as a group, suggested to their boards and boards have taken approval of and have made with Blue Cross/Blue Shield, and this is a way of statutorily passing what is a contract right for some people out in the field. It runs, as far as I can see it, an employee shall mean any current employee who retires while an employee benefit plan is in effect. I guess that means people who are now employees, they would have this right. Somebody who joined the work force next year would not have this right. All I can tell you is that in this situation we sat around in a room, I talked to NSEA as long as we could, we tried to make a way to make this work. We couldn't find a way that sensibly distinguished between the people who were out there that had this kind of a promise and the people who don't have this kind of promise, and in our list of issues this is one that they passed over. I can't make this language comport to what's out there for people other than those teachers who are covered by Blue Cross/Blue Shield, which is a good majority of them and, in that sense, it creates a good deal of mischief for political subdivisions who don't have this kind of contractual...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: ..promise in place. I'm going to oppose the amendment in that it's overreaching and has us statutorily dictating the terms of the contract between every city, every NRD, every school, and whatever insurance company they should choose to hire and their employees, and on that score I'm uncomfortable with this and find it overreaching. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Madam President, a question of Senator Chizek. Senator Chizek, if a teacher had this contractual agreement or maybe it isn't even an agreement, maybe it's a mutual