

state employees so they don't have to put the entire amount into an annuity. I guess at this time I am not yet comfortable to go the full 100 percent. And if you defeat the committee amendments and then move with the bill, you will have a bill in its pristine form which is the full 100 percent. For that reason, if you understand all that logic, I support the committee amendments, and that is the fashion, at least at this point in time, that I can support passage of the bill. And if you strip the committee amendments, I guess I, for one, would be standing at this point in time opposing the full 100 percent and then opposing advancement of the bill.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. I can appreciate Senator Nelson's dilemma on the issue. I feel like Senator Moore did that the 51 percent seemed to be a step forward, and going to 100 percent is a step beyond what I would have felt comfortable with. But I also am rethinking my position on the whole concept of lump sum. I probably was as vocal and strong an opponent of any lump sum ability for our retirees over the years, as a former retirement chairman, and fought the battle in court, and we really had quite a battle over this issue over the years, and to go to 51 percent is, in fact, a step forward for those employees that want that option. There are a number of factors that have led me to feel that some easing up, I don't know how far to go, but some easing up in this area is in order. First off, one of the reasons we thought lump sum was bad was the danger involved, the risk involved, because once you take it out of an annuity, you know, where does it go? You don't necessarily require it to be invested somewhere else. You could spend it on a boat or whatever you wanted to do, go down to Vegas and enjoy yourself and not have any money left that you had saved for your retirement. Certainly that would be the option under lump sum, if you allowed for it I think without restriction. But at the same time, we must keep in mind that where we once thought insurance annuities were without any risk, we do, in fact, have failure of insurance companies now, life insurance companies, like Executive Life and others. There is guaranty funds, hopefully, to protect individuals with annuities, but it is not always the case. And we, I think, should recognize that there is even a risk with annuities. So where once we thought there was a safe side and a risky side, it is not always necessarily as clear as that. In addition, obviously the market situation has changed