

against having this amendment later on in the session after we have received some information, but at the present time, I would ask this body to reject that amendment, have us be furnished with the information, and then vote on it on Select File and Final Reading. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Haberman. Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. Speaker and members, being a county official myself at one time, whether this is an investment, whether it's a retirement fund, no matter what it is, these dollars are the person's who invested them, and they should be dealt with accordingly. They belong to him. He should be able to draw out an equal amount. I am sure that NACO, Nebraska Association of County Officials, have looked into this matter and I am sure they have endorsed this amendment. They would not endorse something that wouldn't be for the betterment of their county officials and can afford to do. We do everything in the name of protecting. We want to protect everybody nowadays. I am not sure I can afford to be protected anymore. We have a local restaurant in town. I used to walk by this restaurant after a meal, reach into the bowl and get a mint. One day I was walking by this bowl and I asked where the bowl was, and I said, where is the mint bowl? They said we can't do this anymore. It is for your own protection. You might get a disease from this or whatever. Well, folks, I guess now we have a bunch of mint bowl checkers walking around to protect us, and I just can't see this any longer. We can't afford to be protected any longer, whatever it is in the name of, but I think this is a good amendment and the county officials should be...have the same opportunity as anybody else. So with that in mind, I hope you will vote for this amendment. Thank you.

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

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members, I, too, would rise in support of the amendment. In terms of equity, you need to have the counties' employees on an equal basis on this issue as the state employees because the systems mirror each other. And when you take this step forward on the state employees, you really should take this step on the county employees. As for Senator Haberman's concern about the fiscal impact and the actuarial reports, you don't need any on this because it doesn't really have an impact on the amount we put into the system whatsoever. It is merely after they are done, after they