

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body, you caught in mid popcorn bite, so clearing the hulls, maybe I'm scraping the barnacles here, but I'm clearing the hulls. Madam President, members of the body, it is with reluctance that I rise to indicate to the body that it is my opinion that 145 probably is not a bill that is of great necessity in the State of Nebraska at this particular point in time. As was indicated on a federal level, this issue is being ping-ponged back and forth between whoever sits in the executive office of the president and the members of Congress and it has been passed and vetoed and now it's back to the process of passing again. Or certainly when that happens, whatever we do in the State of Nebraska would be preempted by the requirements of federal law where that federal law differs from what we might put in place in the state. LB 145 is an attractive bill certainly from the standpoint of a motion. You know we value, we value families in Nebraska very highly. That may not be exactly that deeply held convictions in other areas of the state and we get a nice warm feeling with LB 145 and I would commend Senator Wesely in that certainly his intentions in introducing this, supporting this and encouraging you to support it through the system are understandable from my perspective too. Do not believe, based upon the testimony that was given by the proponents of this bill during the Business and Labor hearing last year that although there were people who had indicated support based upon personal experience, their personal experiences, their family crisis situation had been addressed by their employer at that particular time. There was one exception to that and that was a person who was caught up in a change of ownership of their employer at the same time they had a family crises and certainly did have a set of circumstances that were, if nothing else, needed sympathy and understanding, but 145 in her particular case would not have changed her situation. I would share with you that I'm also concerned about employment practice in the State of Nebraska. I recognize the changing employment force brought upon by economic forces by certainly different goals that people might have that would differ from years ago and to that end though it's not connected with 145, have introduced an interim study resolution to look at a variety of practices that business might be encouraged to use to accommodate family, the family leave issue although it's not directly a leave program. It is my belief that the most productive worker is that worker who is, if not happy, certainly