

employers apparently receive from this family leave policy so that the actual bottom line net cost to the state in tax credits I would suggest, at least in my initial review of this subject, would be relatively low. But again, so that in conclusion, philosophically I support what Senator Wesely has proposed to us. It is something that I have supported for many years. Conceptually, I think it makes solid sense. It is very strong, good public policy to adopt this, but as is the case with the European model where a lot of this derived from, a lot of these types of measures derived from, I do think that society should be the primary bearer of the cost and not the employers who are, in effect, acting as the vehicle to effect our legislative decisions in this area. So with that, Madam President, I would move the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Ashford. I will now recognize senators wishing to speak to the Ashford amendment to the Ashford amendment. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Madam President, yes, I will because I took notes, Senator Ashford, while you were speaking because I think your amendment bears somewhat on how I feel about this bill. I did pass around to you one letter. I have had a lot of letters from businesses and I know you have too, but this one in particular from Harris Laboratories, I have great respect for Harris Laboratories as employers and as a family. They are a family business. Dr. Lewis Harris and his wife started that business in a small lab up in the old...what is called Centerstone now, the old Anderson Building, whatever it was called before. They are family oriented. The whole family works in the business. They are an international business and they are headquartered right here in Lincoln, Nebraska and I think from that point of view we should at least pay attention to how they feel about this bill. So that's why I passed around that letter. Bob Harris is very articulate and states it in a way that I think is understandable and gives a business viewpoint that we need to have because I am sympathetic to the concept of this bill. For 27 years I worked for private employers. They were small businesses, but they must have been ahead of their time or something and I was the exception to the rule because in those days most mothers didn't work. I did work. I had my babies and went back to work, whatever I had to do, they allowed me to do and there were never any arguments about it. During the war at the newspaper we were so short of employees in the office, we did everything. We...I worked in