

if we said, no, we're not going to do that for whatever policy reasons, they would then have to eat that cost within their own budget. The idea of this amendment is again very straightforward. I believe very firmly in family medical leave. I believe very firmly in a good policy. I also have difficulty, when we talk about...get into the business sector, about what we're going to mandate, or what we're going to be able to do. But we can do something for our own employees. We can do something for state employees, and we can sell to the people in corporations in the State of Nebraska we think it's a fair policy, we think it's the right thing to do, here's an example, and here are the good things that can happen. We can set the example at least for our own, if we're not going to do it for the entire state. And that example may be picked up by others, because I think we can show a success rate. I offer this option in the spirit of trying to get something in this area done, because I do not ex...I do not, personally, think that 145 will make it through. And I've had experience, not too long ago, where you can have maybe 29 votes and only end up with 25 on the same stage of debate. So, these things happen. I don't anticipate this bill passing. This amendment may be something that we can do, that could be successful. I wish I didn't have to offer an amendment, but I believe it's the only chance we have to do something in this area this year. I offer it for the body's consideration.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Discussion on the Bernard-Stevens amendment. Senator Bohlke. I do not see Senator Bohlke. Senator Hefner, did you wish to discuss this amendment? Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I guess I would, at this point, oppose the amendment by Senator Bernard-Stevens, understanding his point and what he's trying to do. I still believe in the family leave policy being good policy for the state, being good policy for the businesses in the state, and give a level playing field to those employees within existing family leave, or existing corporations that already have family leave policy. I guess if I knew for a fact that this body was going to reject this bill, I would maybe be at the point of doing what Senator Bernard-Stevens wants to do. But I don't...I'm not there yet that I understand that this bill will be defeated. I think it's very important. As those of us in the, again in the rural areas, think of what it's like when the costs of health care and alternative care, when maybe your